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THE TIMES



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40p

Mitterrand seeks to heal EC rift

France says no summit ambush ahead for UK

FROM ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR, IN DUNKIRK

AS JOHN Major insisted yesterday that Britain would not be bounced into key decisions on European union at the summit of European Community leaders on Friday, he appeared to have won some breathing space from other European leaders.

The prime minister met President Mitterrand in Dunkirk to enlist his support against rapid moves towards a federal Europe.

At a joint press conference after their meeting, Mitterrand signalled that France would not take part in any attempt to ambush Britain, and he agreed that the Luxembourg summit should be a "see where we are" meeting to sort out the problems of the day.

However, M Mitterrand underlined his country's commitment to the federal Europe and Mr Major conceded that the December summit in Maastricht must agree all the issues being discussed in inter-governmental conferences.

Jacques Poos, the foreign

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minister of Luxembourg, which holds the EC presidency until Monday, insisted that nobody "will have a gun at Mr Major's head" at the summit and Charles Haughey, the Irish prime minister, said that the federalist language should be taken out of the latest draft treaty. Hans van den Broek, the Dutch foreign minister, also said that the EC should avoid a showdown with Britain over the use of the word "federal". The Netherlands will take over the EC presidency and host the December summit.

Although the prime minister has found some support for Britain's stance, the difficulties over federalism, defence and economic and monetary union could still present problems in December. Mr Major insisted, without dissent from M Mitterrand, that the Luxembourg summit should "take stock and give guidance for the future work of the inter-governmental conferences". Mr Major said that he and M Mitterrand had agreed that they must build on the progress made under the Luxembourg presidency and take decisions on the final package in December. "What we can't do at Luxembourg this week," he said, "is to take partial decisions halfway through a negotiation on subjects which can only be judged as a whole at the end of the negotiating process."

When M Mitterrand was asked if he would help Britain get rid of the references to a "federal goal", he said that the discussion was still "an open one". Mr Major reiterated that federalism meant different things to different nations and restated Britain's preference for the "ever closer union of the people of Europe" that appears in the present Treaty of Rome. He said he objected to the federalist terms because there was no doubt where the EC was heading and many

changes would be needed before that point was reached. It was clear after the meeting, which was attended by a number of British ministers and their French counterparts, that the two leaders had increased their mutual understanding of their positions without giving much real ground on either side.

The meeting also marked the first time that Mr Major had met Edith Cresson since she took over as prime minister of France last month. He made a point of saying how pleasant the occasion had been and she nodded vigorously as he said that Britain "treasures the relationship with France very much indeed".

After the press conference had finished, officials from the Elysée Palace were visibly pleased to have escaped any serious disagreements. M Mitterrand did not make an issue out of his irritation over Britain's Nato initiative in setting up the rapid reaction force in the Gulf, but the French appeared to have conceded that Mr Major's "hard core" plan should play a greater role on the road to economic and monetary union.

Sir Nicholas Goodison, president of the British Bankers' Association and chairman of the TSB Group, told the Royal Society of Arts in London last night that a single European currency was inevitable and Britain should accept it to protect the City's position as Europe's leading financial centre.

It's still more exciting than watching them talk about FEDERALISM...



Majorism becomes an 'unword'

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major has ordered his advisers to drop the term "Majorism" to describe his brand of Conservatism. The disclosure came as Chris Patten, the party chairman, lowered expectations of a speech by the prime minister on Thursday setting out his personal philosophy.

Mr Patten's intervention added to the confusion over the content of what has been billed as a key event in Mr Major's attempts to place his personal stamp on Conservative policy and to develop his own agenda.

Government sources had trailed the speech as an exercise in "Majorism" but abruptly stopped using the

term in favour of more general language about Toryism in the 1990s. It is understood that Mr Major ordered the change after criticism that it was presumptuous of him to seek to give his name to a philosophy after being in power for less than eight months.

The prime minister has become increasingly irritated by continuing media references to Majorism which run the risk of building up expectations about his address to the Conservative women's conference in London on Thursday. His orders came as Mr Patten appeared to downplay the speech on page 20, col 2.

Nicholas Ridley, page 14



Wimbledon wash-out: dedicated fans waiting for a break in the weather on court 2

Heseltine hints at help for Liverpool

By RICHARD FORD AND RONALD FAUX

THE environment secretary made overtures to the beleaguered ruling Labour council in Liverpool yesterday when he signalled that the government might be willing to offer some help with its plans for the future.

Michael Heseltine, who forged close links with Liverpool after the Toxteth riots in the early 1980s, was restrained in his criticism of the council during a Commons debate.

"Within the disciplines we have long since urged, within the conditions which have been forced by financial reality, there are now some interesting schemes, based on Tory philosophy and experience, coming out of the city council," he said. "They will be seriously considered by this government because they respond to initiatives of this government."

A full return to work by the city's refuse collectors will be recommended today by union negotiators at a mass meeting. If the men accept, an immediate start will be made on clearing rubbish that has mounted up in the past two months.

John Walker, of the GMB dustmen's branch in the city, said after hours of negotiation with council management last night: "The pistol has been removed from our heads. There is a slightly improved offer and although we still expect to lose our jobs, our dignity and pride are re-

stored." The agreement restores bonus payments which means that when the 300 dustmen are made redundant on July 31, when the contract is to be taken over by a French firm, redundancy will be calculated on a larger amount of earnings.

Work on clearing the backlog of rubbish will begin later today if the men accept the council's final offer. If they refuse, Sid Reilly, director of cleansing, said that private contractors would be brought in immediately. "I am not happy about extending the deadline. But by the time we get private contractors into the area it will be very much quicker to use our own workforce and equipment."

He said that with an exceptional effort the emergency tips could be cleared by a week on Friday. Work would continue all weekend when the men will be paid double.

Pat Archer-Jones, director of personnel, said the council was seeking talks with the joint trade union committee to end industrial action in other services. Two hundred staff in the housing benefit and poll tax department were still on strike yesterday as attempts continued to fit more of the 170 workers facing redundancy into council vacancies.

Tories blamed, page 7
Down in the dumps, page 14
Political sketch, page 20

Tokyo resignations hit world's stock markets

STOCKS fell around the world last night after the resignation of the presidents of two of the world's largest securities companies (Our Business Staff writes).

Yoshihisa Tabuchi, president of Nomura Securities company, the world's largest securities firm, announced his resignation in Tokyo yesterday morning. He was followed by the resignation of Takuya Iwasaki, president of Nikko Securities company,

Japan's third largest brokerage firm. In London, the FT-SE 100 index of leading shares closed at 2,458.3, down 29.2 since Friday but slightly above the day's low point.

German shares fell 1.2 per cent. In Paris, shares closed at their lowest for two months. The European falls followed a sharp decline in Tokyo.

Tokyo falls, page 21
Way of business, page 23
Market report, page 26

Game, set and match to the rain

By LIN JENKINS AND JOHN GOODBODY

FOR the first time since 1987, rain washed out the opening day of Wimbledon yesterday. The downpour began shortly after 11 am and although spectators were admitted to the ground they had to huddle beneath umbrellas and under the stands as rain fell throughout the afternoon. Play was officially abandoned for the day at 6.45 pm.

A few miles to the north, the second Test at Lord's was similarly affected. The Meteorological Office said: "Our weekly farming forecast said there was some hope of better conditions at the end of this week, but there will still be a lot of cloud." Weather Initiative, a subscription weather service, said the weather for the following week would be unsettled, with the North and West becoming drier and sunnier.

The English Tourist Board said that people who needed to know whether we would soon see a summer should adopt country lore and watch their garden spiders. The spinning of long web strands heralds dry, settled weather as the spiders go in search of flies. Slugs hiding in vegetation rather than venturing out into the open, as they do in the wet, also indicate an approaching dry spell.

The board enlisted the help of Bill Foggitt, the veteran amateur forecaster, as part of its "Britain's Great" campaign to encourage people to holiday at home. In April he said June would be unseasonal, the first two weeks of July warmer and August peppered by thunderstorms.

Temperatures in North Yorkshire resorts topped the 70s in bright sunshine yesterday while in parts of the south, half of the month's average rainfall fell within 24 hours. But water authorities said much more rain was needed to ease the water shortage. Eight months of solid rain is needed to replenish supplies in parts of Essex and Southern Water said the hosepipe ban in much of Kent would not be lifted.

No play in London, page 2
Leading article, page 15
Test report, pages 38, 40
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Warning signals for older drivers

The hazard presented by the little old lady driver who proceeds at a sedate 30 mph in her Morris Minor on the motorway is being officially recognised by the transport department at last. Today, the department is issuing a new booklet containing advice for the older driver.

The latest research shows that the elderly male driver is just as much at risk of being involved in a serious road accident as the young male driver and problems with eyesight, hearing, and reflexes need to be taken into account.

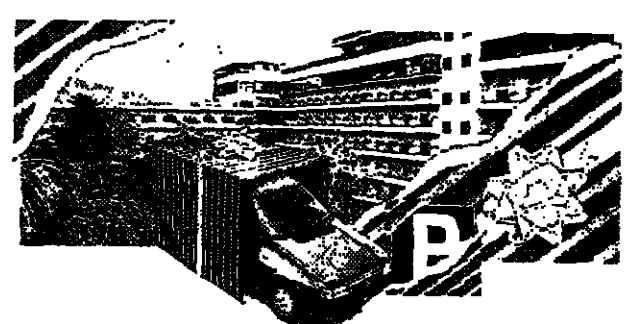
The department reveals that because of Britain's ageing population there are now more elderly drivers on the roads than ever before, many having passed their test at a time when the roads were quieter and before motorways existed. That is, of course, if they passed the test (introduced in 1935) at all.

In the 20 years up to 1985, the latest available figures, the number of male drivers aged over 65 holding a driving licence increased by 200 per cent, and the number of females by 600 per cent. The department expects the numbers to continue to increase.

In 1989, 21 per cent of all car drivers killed on the roads were aged over 60. In addition, 1,854 older drivers were seriously injured, and 7,684 received minor injuries. Fatality rates for car drivers are relatively high among young drivers, fall with age but then start to rise again for older age groups. Elderly drivers are required to renew their licences when they reach the age of 70 and every three years thereafter. Applicants are required to fill out medical questionnaires which the DVLC uses to decide whether they are fit to drive. The main failings are for epilepsy, diabetes, failing eyesight and heart conditions. The Older

Continued on page 20, col 6

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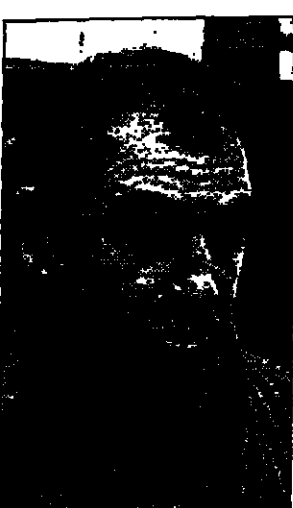
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Kasrils: thanked the police with chocolates

FROM GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

FOR almost a year South Africa's most-wanted man brazenly eluded police with a simple disguise: a Groucho Marx clip-on nose and moustache.

Ronnie Kasrils, the former military intelligence chief of the African National Congress, and mastermind of a plot to overthrow the government, emerged from hiding at the weekend to tell of his life on the run, including attending rugby matches in full sight of his pursuers.

Called the "Red Pimpernel" for his clandestine communist activities, Mr Kasrils was branded an outlaw last July for his part in Operation Vula, an ANC contingency plan to stage an armed revolution should negotiations with Pretoria break down. The scheme involved infiltrating guerrilla commanders from exile as the nucleus of a

strike force, and establishing arms caches and "safe houses" in Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town.

The conspiracy was uncovered when police decoded computer communications between South Africa, Lusaka and London. The government recently agreed, in the spirit of reconciliation, to grant indemnity to its authors. Appearing at a press conference at the Soweto home of Nelson Mandela, the deputy president of the ANC, Mr Kasrils said: "This has been a wonderful year. I wasn't nailed to a desk in town. Being on the run gave me the time and liberty to move around."

As one of the few whites in the ANC leadership, Mr Kasrils, aged 54, should have been easy to spot. His burly figure and distinctive features were displayed in police stations throughout the country, and frequently published in newspapers. But in escapades reminiscent of

a Tom Sharpe novel, he evaded arrest with aplomb and a variety of disguises. On one occasion two traffic policemen kept him company as he waited for a break-down lorry to tow away his car on a Transvaal motorway. He expressed his gratitude by sending them chocolates with a note of thanks in his own name.

A fan of the Blue Bulls, the Northern Transvaal rugby team, Mr Kasrils regularly attended matches at their stadium in Pretoria, where he was waved through the traffic "and shown to wonderful parking." His closest shave came when officers looking for a stolen car unwittingly arrived at an ANC hideout. "I tried to leave through the window, but there were more police outside, so I just put the kettle on. They walked right through the house, and left without suspecting anything."

Township peace pact, page 11

Women of Walton give Militant a piece of their mind



Mahmood: accused of helping the Tories

LESLEY Mahmood, the self-confessed Trotskyist, Militant supporter and class warrior, ran into a torrent of trouble from the women of Liverpool Walton when she took to the hustings in the by-election campaign yesterday.

What should have been a carefully controlled and routine canvass of a shopping mall for the Real Labour candidate, turned into a public relations fiasco as she and her young team were savaged by a posse of female voters whose patience over the current state of the city appeared to have snapped.

Ms Mahmood's helpers were sworn at. She was harangued in true Militant style and accused of helping the Conservatives as the women, one of them aged 70, turned on them. As the quietly spoken Ms Mahmood talked with a shopper and her children in Breck

Road in the Anfield ward of the constituency, one of her helpers suddenly found herself surrounded by hostile forces.

The Militants were called "shits and bleeding liars". Marion Stephen, from the Breckfield ward, shouted: "Derek Hatton and his lot — that's who you support. You got this city into a mess." When a Mahmood aide protested that she was the true Labour candidate Mrs Stephen retorted: "Labour my arse."

Her neighbour Ann Collinson chimed in: "Hamon brought this City to its knees. These people are his cohorts. They have young children running round campaigning for them. It is a disgrace. I believe in a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. This lot want more for doing nothing."

Then Jane Grant, aged 70, en-

Philip Webster sees Lesley Mahmood, the Militant by-election candidate, run into a little local difficulty on the streets of Walton

tered the fray to tackle Ms Mahmood head-on. "You call yourself Real Labour but you are helping the Tories. Get united with Neil Kinnock and throw them out," she said.

The candidate stood her ground. "I got kicked out of the Labour party because I voted against the poll tax. I was trying to defend you. I did not ask to be thrown out. It is a fight that Neil Kinnock has chosen.

He has attacked the people of Liverpool since 1985."

Mrs Grant retorted: "That's propaganda. You are talking to an old-timer. You are talking about Neil Kinnock. He runs Labour. You are running Labour down. Join with him and beat the Tories."

In this part of the constituency Liverpool's refuse collectors, locked in dispute with its council and soon to be replaced by a French outfit, seem barely more popular than Militant. Mary Galvin said: "I'll vote for Kilfoyle. He wants to sack the binner. This lot want to keep them on. We aren't pay our poll tax of £1,500 for our house so that the binner can stand around and do nothing."

By now Ms Mahmood's campaign organisers were probably regretting their choice of canvassing location. Frances Wareing,

another Walton resident, had not finished: "You are ruining it for Labour. You are making Liverpool a laughing stock," she said. "There is a recession on. People are losing jobs everywhere. You have got to face up to it." Ms Mahmood and her team moved on. It had been an uncomfortable session.

Ms Mahmood had begun her day warning newspapers and broadcasters that they should call her the Real Labour candidate.

Her camp said that to describe her as the Broad Left or Militant candidate would be a breach of the Representation of the People Act. Her action prompted her official Labour opponent Peter Kilfoyle to claim that Militant was trying to hide its true nature and deceive the voters.

Liverpool moves, page 1

Three suspended over forced sedation of girl in care

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THREE senior managers at a health department youth treatment centre were suspended yesterday after evidence emerged that a girl was forcibly injected with tranquillisers and kept in solitary confinement for seven weeks.

William Waldegrave, the health secretary, told the Commons that Walter Campbell, director of the St Charles youth treatment centre, at Brentwood, Essex, had been suspended on full pay pending a disciplinary investigation, along with his deputy, James Gormley, and a manager, Robert Metton.

An independent enquiry into care at the home found evidence to substantiate three complaints by Deborah Cox, a former resident, including the "injection of sedative drugs without consent and on some occasions under restraint". The team found that the drugs

had been injected on 14 occasions, of which eight were reportedly administered under restraint. It found that the centre's documents on the use of sedative medication were out of date and that the policy that did exist was breached.

The other complaints that were substantiated were the "prolonged and on some occasions unjustified use of separation" and her exclusion from participation in reviews about her case.

A management review by the social services inspectorate at the same time as the independent enquiry suggested that Miss Cox's case was not isolated, Mr Waldegrave said. "It also suggests poor management control at the centre and an inadequate discharge of its reporting obligations to my department."

The centre had breached government guidelines on the

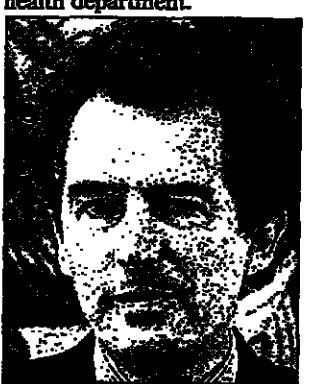
reporting of solitary confinement and medical treatment to the health department, according to the inspectorate's report. It also expressed concern about the general environment at the centre. Both the separation room and the observation room were bare with only mattresses on the floor.

In addition, the inspectorate found that there was "physical and psychological" coercion to attend group treatment meetings and restriction of movement and telephone calls, letters and contacts with parents. The report also complained of the use of repeated interrogation of youngsters in isolation and "an incident where a young person's liberty had been unlawfully restricted".

Mr Waldegrave was confident that the guidelines, which were extremely "strict", were adequate but said that they had not been followed. There was no need for new guidelines.

A separate review is being carried out within the health department by the permanent secretary to see if any blame lies there. A 1988 report into St Charles from the social services inspectorate, also found evidence of prolonged solitary confinement.

Miss Cox lodged her complaints in January this year after she was moved to Glenthorne youth treatment centre, Erdington, Birmingham, which is also run by the health department.



Waldegrave: described guidelines as adequate

Arts, page 13
Leading article, page 15

Alarm over decline in library services

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

LIBRARY services are in such a state of decline, according to the president of the Library Association, that the arts minister could find himself answering in court for a breach in his statutory duty.

According to the 1964 Libraries and Museums Act, local authorities must provide a comprehensive and efficient library service and the arts minister, Tim Renton, is responsible for ensuring that they do. The Library Association, which carried out a survey of local councils' plans for their libraries in April, believes he has failed.

Tim Featherstone, president of the association, will use the presentation today of the association's Carnegie Medal for children's writing to plead the case for more library funding. Gillian Cross, this year's winner, will speak in support. She said yesterday: "I see the whole library system beginning to dissolve away, with no one standing up to shout about it."

The Office of Arts and Libraries believes, however, that the problem has been exaggerated. "Prime responsibility rests with local authorities," a spokesman said. "The minister would urge them to think very carefully before making disproportionate cuts. The department keeps a watching brief under the 1964 act and responds to public concern."

That concern was voiced two years ago when Sir Richard Luce, Mr Renton's predecessor, launched a green paper suggesting that libraries could generate funds by charging for peripheral services, such as speedy availability of best-sellers. More than 8,000 letters came in, many of them concerned that libraries were to be privatised (legally they could not be) or sold. The green paper has since been allowed quietly to expire.

The association is afraid that many local authorities are adopting entrepreneurial principles by installing cafes, charging search fees and selling books. East Sussex is to sell the ten best-selling paperbacks in its libraries, while some authorities are considering Sunday opening. Cuts are reflected in closures, fewer books bought and shorter opening hours.

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French upset rest of Europe by air and sea

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

STRIKING French seamen and air traffic controllers disrupted cross-Channel travel severely yesterday, with many flights and ferry sailings cancelled.

The prime minister's meeting in Dunkirk escaped the disruption thanks to an agreement between air traffic controllers and the French government that ensures that a minimum service is maintained, including "priority" flights. Most passengers, however, struggled to reach their destinations, with only a handful of flights operating.

The French air traffic controllers are protesting about their working conditions, and in particular a lack of modern equipment and a staff shortage. The government promised some improvements by the end of last year, and new equipment and extra manpower by now. That promise has been broken and, spurred on by two militant and powerful unions, the controllers are pressing their claim by embarrassing the French government in front of the rest of Europe.

The Civil Aviation Authority faced similar problems in Britain three years ago when morale among air traffic controllers had slumped, pay rates had fallen behind their counterparts elsewhere in Europe, equipment was breaking down and there was a serious staff shortage.

The authority effectively "bought off" the controllers with a £700 million investment programme and by having off their pay from that of the civil service. That enabled top controllers at Heathrow to earn more than £30,000 a year, and over the past year or so there has been little sign of unrest.

The problems on the cross-Channel ferries are also linked to French working practices. The French company SNAT has a marketing agreement with Sealink Stena Lines under which it operates two ships out of Dover and two



No French connection: a US traveller at Heathrow finds her Paris flight cancelled yesterday

out of Newhaven. Sealink, which operates two British vessels, sells tickets on the French company's behalf.

The French seamen complain of undermanning and for nine days have been on strike, halving the ships sailing under the Sealink banner from Dover and closing the Newhaven-Dieppe service.

The impact has not been as great as that on air travel because the cancelled services represent only about a tenth of

cross-Channel ferry traffic. Sealink hopes that the dispute will be over before the holiday traffic peaks in August.

Similarly the airlines, which yesterday were restricted to five flights an hour into France instead of the usual 30 an hour, are hoping that the French government can produce a satisfactory package for the air traffic controllers before the holiday rush. The International Federation of Air Traffic Control Associ-

ations, however, fears the worse, with possible action by controllers in Italy, Spain, Greece and Germany and threats of strikes already made by controllers in Poland and the Soviet Union.

In each country the argument is the same: too few people working with inadequate and out-dated equipment, trying to cope with a surge in air traffic.

Dunkirk visit, page 1

Spectators and the black market were losers on the day that Wimbledon and Lord's were washed out, but the cricketers had an unexpected bonus

Touts find resale rules are not quite the ticket

By JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

THE first losers at the Wimbledon Championships were apparent before a ball was played. Disgruntled ticket touts yesterday complained at new conditions restricting the unauthorised resale of tickets, and accused the All-England Club of hypocrisy and of having kept hundreds of centre court seats out of the public ballot.

The police met more than 50 touts, many sheltering under umbrellas, in a damp car park and advised them of the regulations on obstruction and obtaining property by deception. Afterwards, the touts, who rely on buying tickets from the debenture holders, players, officials or the public, and then reselling them for profit, said that the All-England Club was doing the same thing and siphoning off tickets to Keith Prowse, which runs the official corporate hospitality company.

One tout, who declined to be named, said: "The club is doing exactly the same as us. It claims moral superiority and says the public is entitled to see the tennis but the club is itself depriving many tennis-loving spectators of seeing the matches." He also accused the club of selling off seats on staircase 31, east open and west open sides, rather than putting them in the public ballot as in previous years.

Wimbledon officials were yes-

terday making spot checks on ticket-holders, none of whom gets a refund for not seeing any tennis, to verify if the individuals were originally allocated the seats. In principle, any ticket, other than a debenture ticket, which is sold by an unauthorised agent, will be invalid and the holder can be barred from the ground. The touts admit that many members of the public have been scared off from reselling tickets.

The All-England Club has always insisted that the black market makes a mockery of the pricing and distribution system because it redirects far too many tickets to those who can afford to pay inflated prices. Standard centre court seats for matches today cost £16 and those with restricted view only £11.

The club denied the allegation that tickets have been withdrawn from the public ballot this year. Christopher Gorming, the chief executive, said that the number of centre court and No 1 court tickets allocated to the public ballot had increased this year as well as last. He added that the number of debenture tickets had not risen this year or at any time in the past 50 years. Profits from the championships, expected to reach £10 million this year, go to British tennis.

Sport washout, page 1
Wimbledon, pages 39, 40

Queen offers tea and sympathy at palace

By ALAN HAMILTON

PROBABLY the best thing about yesterday's Test cricket washout, at least for the players, was the tea interval. Just for once it took place in the Lord's pavilion but in the even grander milieu, if indeed there is anywhere grander than the Lord's pavilion, of the Bow Room at Buckingham Palace.

The Queen, who despite her apparent lack of interest in ball games has been patron of the MCC throughout her reign, should have gone to Lord's with the Duke of Edinburgh at 3pm yesterday. Perhaps she would have seen England engineer a sensational last-day victory but certainly to watch half an hour's play before meeting the teams on the pitch. By 2pm the weather had put paid to all spectacle, with the visitors stuck at 12 for 2 in their second innings, so she invited them all back to her place instead.

As befits her position, the invitation was entirely even-handed. She is not only Graham Gooch's sovereign but Viv Richards's, his homeland of Antigua and Barbuda being one of her 16 realms and territories. She is also Queen of Grenadine and Marshall (Barbados), Richardson and Ambrose (Antigua), Dujon, Walsh and Patterson (Jamaica).

She can, however, claim no sovereignty over Hooper and Lambert (Guyana), or Logie, Simmons, Tara and Williams (Trinidad), their

countries being Commonwealth members but with their own heads of state.

Both teams, accompanied by Lance Gibbs, the West Indies manager, and by Lord Griffiths and Lieutenant-Colonel John Stephenson, the president and secretary of the MCC, spent an hour at the palace chatting with the Queen and duke while sipping tea.

Had rain not stopped play, and had the full programme gone ahead, the Queen would have been able to exercise her privilege of being the only woman permitted to enter the Long Room, on her way from the committee room to the pitch to meet the players. The wet weather programme would have underscored that privilege; she would actually have met the teams in the Long Room.

The Queen regularly makes brief appearances at Lord's Test matches, gazing with what is assumed to be incomprehension from the committee room window. She is said to be only marginally more fascinated by cricket than by the baseball game she was obliged to watch during her state visit last month to the United States.

Cricketing authorities put this down firstly to her being a woman, and secondly to too many of her ancestors being either German or Scottish.

Test reports, pages 38, 40

Lifers may get parole hearings

By QUENTIN COWARD AND SHEILA GUNN

SOME prisoners serving life sentences are likely to be allowed to appear before parole hearings and to be legally represented as a result of pressure on Britain from the European Court of Human Rights, it emerged yesterday.

The disclosure that the parole board might become more like a normal court when hearing applications from some life sentence prisoners came as MPs were preparing today to defy the Lords by reintroducing a mandatory life sentence for murder.

In April, the Lords voted to abolish the automatic penalty, arguing that it was against natural justice that all murderers — from crimes of passion to premeditated killings — should attract the same punishment. Government whips believe that the Commons will overturn the decision.

Ministers hope their decision to bow to the Strasbourg court by surrendering their right to decide when so-called discretionary lifers can be released from jail will prevent peers from again voting for the abolition of the mandatory life sentence.

Labour MPs believe that the government's proposals would still breach the European Convention on Human Rights. They are concerned about a clause in the government's latest amendments to the criminal justice bill which would allow the home secretary to defer for up to six months the release of offenders such as rapists and arsonists jailed for life at the discretion of courts.

The home secretary remains determined to keep his veto over the release of people jailed for life for murder.

Barry Sheerman, a Labour spokesman on home affairs, said last night: "It is clear from the legal advice we have received that these proposals are in breach of the convention and that they will result in more cases where the United Kingdom is brought before the European Court." The National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders also voiced misgivings.

Police appeal to relatives

Police investigating the abduction and serious sexual assault of an 11-year-old girl in Leicestershire on Saturday have said that friends or relatives of the man must have vital information.

The girl said that her attacker, who threatened her with a curved knife, was in his mid-thirties, about 5ft 6in tall with short, fair hair, which was "untidy" on top. He had blue eyes and a pronounced accent, possibly Scottish.

Police said that the girl, who was grabbed as she rode her bicycle in Quorn, was bearing up well after the ordeal. She was bundled into a white hatchback car and tied up before being sexually assaulted. Eighty minutes later she was left in Loughborough.

Architect medal

The Royal Institute of British Architects will tonight award its annual gold medal to Colin Stansfield Smith, chief architect of Hampshire county council. His designs include a tented polygonal primary school, the high-tech galleries of Farnborough College, a canopy of steel girders for Netley police college and the repair and modernisation of the county's large stock of historic buildings.

Nelson's home

Planning consent has been granted for the stately home bought by the nation for Admiral Nelson's family after his death to be converted into a 78-room hotel, Trafalgar House, a grade one listed building near Salisbury, Wiltshire, has fallen into partial disrepair. The application by the Swedish entrepreneur Gunmar Bengtsson now has to be confirmed by the environment department.

Drama winners

The five winners of the 1990 Giles Cooper awards for the year's best radio plays received their prizes from the actress Diana Quick in London yesterday. The winners were: Tony Bagley for *The Machine*; David Cragan for *A Butler Did It*; John Fletcher for *Death and The Tango* (all broadcast on Radio 3); and Tina Pepler for *Song Of The Forest*, and Steve Walker for *The Pope's Brother* (Radio 4).

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I had Jewel lapse

and doctor appear in release

Employ

I had lost 'Crown Jewels', security lapse officer said

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A SENIOR RAF officer said that "death would have been a good option" when he realised that secret information about the Allies' Gulf war strategy had been stolen from the boot of his car, a court martial was told yesterday.

Wing Commander David Bisset Farquhar told a court martial at RAF Uxbridge, west London, charged with negligence after leaving classified material in his custody unattended in a vehicle. He pleaded not guilty. The maximum sentence on conviction is two years' jail and dismissal from the service.

Group Captain John Weendon, for the prosecution, said that on the day of the theft the wing commander had gone with Sir Patrick to a briefing on the Gulf at the defence ministry. After the briefing, the two officers were driven by Corporal Philip Bromley to Chelsea barracks, where Sir Patrick boarded a

helicopter and left to keep an appointment.

Wing Commander Farquhar and the corporal then left for High Wycombe. In the wing commander's custody were three briefcases: one belonging to Sir Patrick, containing his briefing script, a second "official security briefcase" with classified documents, and his own flight bag, containing his computer and two floppy discs.

Group Captain Weendon said that it was Wing Commander Farquhar's duty to safeguard the material. The nature of the classified material was such that the briefcases had to remain in his personal custody. But driving towards the A40, Wing Commander Farquhar instructed the driver to stop at a car showroom in Acton, West London. Before going to the showroom, he locked the three briefcases in the boot.

The corporal told the police that when they returned to the car and found the briefcases gone, Wing Commander Farquhar put his hands to his head and walked away. He then spoke by telephone to Air Marshal Sir John Kennell, chief of staff and deputy commander-in-chief at RAF Strike Command.

Group Captain Weendon said that police searched the area but found nothing. Two-and-a-half hours later, at 4.30pm, a doctor found the briefcases in the car park of a store in west London. All classified documents were recovered but there was no sign of the computer until it was returned in the post on January 8, about a week before the first allied bombers attacked targets in Baghdad.

While giving his statement to two Special Branch detectives on December 21, Wing Commander Farquhar was asked whether he accepted that he had breached security regulations by leaving the car unattended, the prosecution said. He replied: "Yes, I accept that. It's cast iron."

The wing commander was said to have told the officers: "With hindsight, I clearly got it wrong." He added: "It was bloody stupid." The court was told that he admitted that he should have instructed Corporal Bromley to stay with the car. "I can't rationalise why I failed to do it," he said.

He suggested that it was a combination of fatigue and jet lag. "It's got to the stage, I had just switched off at the wrong time. I relaxed and just let the guard down. I have no other explanation."

Appearing as a prosecution witness, Sir Patrick said that the wing commander had been under intense pressure during the Gulf confrontation and that he had been a loyal, dedicated personal staff officer who worked at least 12 hours a day.

The case continues today.



Farquhar: entrusted with secret war strategy

Royal doctor to appear in libel case

THE Duchess of York's gynaecologist Anthony Kenney is to give evidence in court for a Harley Street colleague who says that he was branded a fraudster by the *News of the World*, a High Court libel jury was told yesterday.

Paul MacLoughlin, who has shared offices with Mr Kenney, is suing the newspaper for damages over an article in February 1988 headlined "Fergie baby doctor is duped by fake clinic". Dr MacLoughlin, conducting his own case, said he was defamed by the "scurrilous" story.

He told Mr Justice Drake that it was nonsense for the newspaper to suggest that he tried to give his infertility clinic a respectable front by using the names of eminent consultants, including Mr Kenney. Dr MacLoughlin also dismissed an allegation in the story that he was the subject of a £2 million enquiry by the Charity Commission over the collapse of a charitable company.

The *News of the World* denies libel. The hearing continues today.

Director to step down at Royal Opera

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

PAUL Findlay, opera director at the Royal Opera House, is leaving "to pursue his career in the international arts field", Covent Garden announced yesterday. He is not renewing his contract in July 1993, adding to a growing list of resignations at the top in British opera.

Four of Britain's five main opera companies are now looking for administrators. English National Opera, Welsh National Opera and Scottish Opera have all recently announced changes.

Mr Findlay was abroad and unavailable last night, but his name has been mentioned as a successor to Peter Jonas, general director of ENO, who is leaving with the rest of that company's top management. Lately there were said to have been policy differences with Jeremy Isaacs, the director-general. Mr Findlay was in favour of building up an ensemble of young singers rather than using stars.

Arts, page 13



Uniformly modern: serving soldiers parading new uniforms for army women of the 1990s at the Ministry of Defence yesterday. More than 40 years have elapsed since the late Sir Norman Hartnell designed a standard uniform for the Women's Royal

Army Corps (writes John Young). Major Jacqueline Lindsay, of the army's directorate of clothing, said that the earlier uniforms were not designed for modesty or mobility. The WRAC was formed on February 1, 1949, at about the same

time as the Hartnell design was agreed. The new uniforms coincide with the recently announced integration of women into 17 army regiments and corps. The new wardrobe includes barrack dress, parade uniform, temperate and tropical wear,

mess dress and sportswear. It was designed by the Royal College of Art, Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education, Leicester Polytechnic, the Scottish College of Textiles, Manchester Polytechnic and Lancashire Polytechnic.

Spy Blake to give evidence on video

THE spy George Blake is to give evidence on video to a Central Criminal Court jury today in the trial of two peace campaigners accused of helping him to escape from prison 25 years ago.

One of them, Patrick Pottle, aged 52, of north London, told the court yesterday: "I would like to call Mr George Blake to give evidence - but he cannot be with us. He has sent his statement on video." It is thought to be the first time that such evidence has been screened in an English court.

Mr Pottle and Michael Randle, aged 57, of Bradford, West Yorkshire, deny aiding Blake to escape from Wormwood Scrubs prison in 1966 and conspiring with Sean Bourke, now dead, to harbour 'Blake' and to prevent his arrest.

Mr Justice Allott has ruled that the jury may see the video, which was recorded in Moscow last year in the presence of the men's solicitor, Benedict Birnberg.

The prosecution has alleged that the two provided evidence against themselves in their book *The Blake Escape*, published in 1969.

Yesterday Mr Pottle admitted that he did carry out the acts alleged in the charges. He said from the witness box: "I believe that anyone involved in the escape of George Blake bears no guilt and has no shame for what they did. I consider breaking George Blake out of prison to be a decent, humanitarian act." In

cross-examination, Mr Pottle said that he and Mr Randle met Blake when they were jailed for 18 months for their part in the occupation of a US airbase base.

He and Mr Randle did not support the espionage activities of any country and they "had never tried to whitewash or justify what Blake did, but on the other hand he was a human being sentenced to rot in this place until he died. I wasn't prepared to stand by and see that happen."

Mr Pottle said that meeting Blake and his second wife in Moscow last year for the first time since the escape was "an incredible experience, something I never dreamed would happen... I refuse to believe he would be better off rotting in some English jail... Having seen him and his family I believe what we did was completely justified."

Sea-going Wrens to get chance of life under the ocean wave

By DAVID YOUNG

THE controversy over Wrens serving at sea is about to reach new heights, or rather fresh depths. The Admiralty is preparing to let women join their male colleagues in submarines, whose quarters are even more confined than those of surface ships.

The move was announced in a speech at Torquay by Vice-Admiral Sir Alan Grose, who said that sea-going Wrens were proving a success. "Make no mistake, Wrens at sea are a fact of life," Sir Alan, the Flag Officer, Plymouth, told 200 delegates at the annual conference of the Royal Naval Association.

He said that the Flag Officer, Submarines, had been asked to look next year

into the question of employing women in submarines. "All the new-design ships will be capable of carrying mixed crews," he added. "Women have now been accepted for flying training and for service with 42 Commando in Northern Ireland."

He said that the introduction of Wrens into the crews of naval vessels had probably been brought about more by the need to make up for the declining number of male recruits "than any great desire for female equality".

The idea of women as submariners brought a broadside from a former naval officer, Mike Crichtley, who is now a naval writer.

He said: "There is a lot of difference between going out

on board a surface ship and a submarine. There is a much closer proximity between crew members and at the moment the Wrens' organisation does not have the necessary skills for submarine training."

Navy wives are already angry with the service for sending Wrens to sea with their husbands. There have been protest marches by wives in Plymouth and Portsmouth and some wrote to the Duchess of York, saying that marriages were already under pressure because of long separations.

However, Sir Alan said: "I'm sure the situation will settle down to the point where Wrens at sea are the norm and are accepted by everyone."

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Employers slow to help mothers

Ray Clancy looks at the latest survey of benefits for employees and finds little to improve the lot of working mothers

MORE than nine-tenths of employers have no plans to encourage mothers of young children to return to work by improving pay or benefits, and only half intend to provide training, according to a survey published yesterday.

The latest report on employee benefits says that the decline in the birth rate is causing employers to worry about staff shortages. The research found, however, that employers have ignored the role of mothers, whose lot is unlikely to improve until better child care and tax incentives are provided.

Employee Benefits 1991, published by the Reward Group, also found that the provision of company cars has risen sharply over the past three years, and that the budget changes in taxation have so far had no effect.

WHO GETS THE PERKS						
Job title	Average basic salary	Bonus scheme	Employer's pension contribution	Private health insurance	Company car	Home telephone bill paid
Director/Managing director	£45,000	£10,000	£4,000	Employee & family	Yes (90%)	Yes
Senior manager/Chief accountant	£27,000	£2,325	£2,425	Employee & family	Yes (55%)	Possible
Middle manager/Production manager	£16,900	£1,025	£1,525	Employee only	Possible (26%)	No
Senior secretary	£10,700	£500	£975	No	No	No
Skilled operative/Craftsman	£10,825	£1,675	£950	No	No	No

the century. The report said: "If this is to be the case, child-care facilities and tax incentives will need to be provided in the UK."

The survey found that employers regard career breaks as the best way to attract and retain staff and that the banks offered a variety of schemes. Child-care facilities, however, are still not "generally provided".

The budget has led companies to question the provision of company cars, the survey found. Firms are examining the costs, and managers are beginning to consider whether the benefit is worth the extra taxation that they pay.

This year an average of 20.3 per cent of junior

managers have company cars, compared with 15 per cent in 1988. The proportion of senior managers with cars this year is 79.8 per cent, compared with 74.4 per cent in 1988. The provision of cars for senior middle managers has risen from 47.7 per cent to 61.1 per cent over the same period and for junior middle managers from 21.8 per cent to 38.2 per cent.

The report said: "Last year the trend was for companies to offer cars to lower levels of management as a method of easing recruitment shortages or to retain the services of employees with required skills and experience. Fifty-nine per cent of participants in this year's survey recorded this trend increasing within

their own companies." Directors and managing directors still top the league for perks. Many are entitled to bonus payments, private health insurance for the whole family, home telephone bills paid, and life assurance at four times their salary. Senior managers have similar perks but middle managers are unlikely to have private health insurance for all the family or home telephone bills paid.

Senior secretaries may receive bonus payments but are unlikely to have private health insurance, a company car or telephone bills paid. Skilled workers may receive better bonuses than secretaries but again are unlikely to have the other perks.

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National Tr
Jacobean

Police call off fraud enquiry into Magna Carta tour

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

FRAUD squad detectives yesterday called off their enquiry into the loss-making Australian tour of Lincoln Cathedral's Magna Carta exhibition. A spokesman said there was insufficient evidence to justify further proceedings. The Crown Prosecution Service in London has recommended no further action on a file sent in by Lincoln police over two months ago. The news was welcomed at the cathedral, where the four canons and the dean, divided over the issue, have been attempting a reconciliation. The Bishop of Lincoln, the Right Rev Robert Hardy, said: "This decision removes a dark cloud which has overshadowed the cathedral. The dean and chapter now have every incentive to continue their work on the recommendations of my visitation award and I call on all people of goodwill to pray for the cathedral in its life and work." The bishop made a series of wide-ranging recommendations on accountability, management and control in the cathedral in his admonition published last September. The Magna Carta exhibition of the cathedral's copy of the ancient document at World Expo in Australia in 1988 was expected to make thousands of pounds for the cathedral but instead lost more than £56,000. Further costs were waived by the Australian authorities. A conciliator was called in to help resolve the ensuing dispute between the dean, the Very Rev Brandon Jackson, and the four canons. One of the canons involved, Canon David Rutter, the precentor, died recently. Relationships between the dean and chapter deteriorated over the following months. The bishop called, in his admonition, for all four canons to consider their positions. He criticised Dr Jackson for "intemperate and extravagant language". He said in his admonition that the past eight months had been the saddest period of his ministry. "It all seems a long way from Jesus of Nazareth." The official enquiry will be followed by a progress report next year into how the recommendations have been put into action. Dr Jackson said last night he was not surprised by the results of the police investigation. "Naturally I am pleased for the image of the cathedral." However, he said there was no chance of a reconciliation at the cathedral despite the efforts of two conciliators called in to bring the warring factions together. "We have got to trust in God and the power of God."

Building society man jailed

A building society assistant manager was jailed yesterday for approving £64,000 of bogus loans to a friend he had made in a darts team. Ernest Sutton, aged 32, of Thornton Heath, Surrey, who worked at the Halifax's Baker Street branch, central London, and the man who received the money, David John Stride, aged 41, a Croydon publican, each received two years at Southwark crown court after pleading guilty to two charges each of conspiring to defraud the society.

Caver drowns

The body of a British caver, Julien Vaughan-Smith, aged 27, was recovered yesterday from an underground lake at Arredondo on the northern Spanish coast. The British embassy was unable to confirm his address.

Back burner

Firemen who extinguished a hotel blaze at Aberford, West Yorkshire, believe it had been smouldering in flame ducts for two years. Some 2ft-thick, 300-year-old beams were charred right through.

Garden blight

The 1990 National Garden Festival at Gateshead had debts of £3.7 million and was nearly a million visitors short of its four million target, but increased tourism, festival officials reported.

Depot closure

The US navy, the only user of a Nato ammunition depot at Broughton Moor, Cumbria, is to move its stocks elsewhere. The depot is likely to close next year with the loss of more than 130 jobs.

Wall kills boy

Stewart McKenna, aged 13, was crushed to death when a partly built wall he was playing on collapsed at Tranmere, Merseyside.

National Trust loses Jacobean 'prize'

By JOHN YOUNG

ONE of Britain's most remarkable Jacobean houses, Chastleton, in Oxfordshire, faces an uncertain future after the apparent failure of the National Trust to agree terms for its acquisition. Sheldon Besley, a Partners, estate agents, of Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire, said that it had been instructed by the house's owner, Barbara Chastleton-Brock, to seek a buyer on the open market. Until a few months ago, it had been understood that the house and estate would be bequeathed to the trust on Mrs Chastleton-Brock's death. The first indication to the contrary came when several of the contents were auctioned in April. At about the same time, the house went on the market but the trust asked the agents for time, which it was given, to examine ways that the house might be acquired for the nation. The trust has declined to say why negotiations broke down. There have been suggestions that Mrs Chastleton-Brock, who has refused to speak about the matter, felt she was being coerced by the forces of conservation. Chastleton was built at the start of the 17th century by Walter Jones, who bought the estate for £4,000 from Robert Cusby, one of the gunpowder plot conspirators. The proceeds are reputed to have financed the conspiracy. The house has been described as a perfect example of a Jacobean house, with its interior and exterior in excellent condition. The contents have been valued at about £1 million, and the house and estate could fetch up to £1.5 million. English Heritage confirmed that it had offered a grant of £800,000 towards its acquisition. The National Heritage Memorial Fund is reported to have been willing to provide up to £3 million for purchase and repair and a further £1 million as an endowment for its upkeep.



Final sitting: Ian Beer, headmaster of Harrow, poses by his portrait with the artist Michael Noskes in what will be his last week at the school before he retires after ten years as head.

Mr Beer, a biologist and former England rugby union international, came to Harrow after being headmaster of Emsayre college, Shropshire, and of Lancing college, West Sussex. He is the first scientist to be head of the school and has been a member of the Headmasters' Conference, which represents 230 leading independent schools, for 30 years. He has always been keen to play his part in mainstream education and is at present chairman of the government's national curriculum physical education working party. Mr Beer plans to begin his retirement with a lecture tour of the United States.

Spycatcher case for Strasbourg

THE government's opposition to press publication of the *Spycatcher* will be challenged today in the European Court of Human Rights in the most important test case on freedom of speech since that on *Thailand* in the 1970s (Frances Gibb writes). The case, being brought by Times Newspapers and Andrew Neil, editor of *The Sunday Times*, will establish the extent of government powers to restrict the reporting of information obtained from secret sources. The European Commission on Human Rights last year upheld Times Newspapers' claim that the ban on publication of the contents of the memoirs of the former MI6 officer Peter Wright was in breach of article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights. If the European court agrees, the case could result in a change of English law, so that the courts will grant such applications only on the basis of a strict test of public interest.

Solicitors' legal aid claims face tighter vetting

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

FIRM action to control soaring legal aid costs is to be taken by the Legal Aid Board after a 20 per cent rise in the legal aid bill for 1990-1 to more than £500 million. Claims by solicitors for legal aid work are to be subject to new vetting procedures. The board is also expanding its fraud investigation unit after an enquiry in London found that six firms had allegedly made invalid legal aid claims. The biggest increase has been in criminal legal aid, where spending has gone up by £34 million. The board said that strengthening of the increase was because more cases are going through the

courts, that did not explain a rise of more than 20 per cent in the cost of individual claims being made by solicitors. Allowing for an increase in solicitors' pay rates for legal aid work, the rise in real terms was 11.4 per cent. Stephen Orchard, chief executive of the board, said that solicitors seemed to be claiming more for work now than they did three years ago and for no apparent reason. "If the cases had become more difficult, there might be some justification. But the mix of cases is the same, yet they are spending 13 per cent more time in preparation and attending, their clients than before." He said there was also deliberate double claiming. "Fraud is only a small element but it is a growing problem."

Research for the board by the centre for socio-legal studies at Woburn College, Oxford, to explain rising costs, identified three main factors: solicitors are claiming for more time on preparation and attending clients; longer waiting times at court; and more claims for writing letters.

Law, pages 31, 33

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مكتبة الأمل

Liverpool poverty and lack of jobs blamed on Tories

By OUR PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

THE bitter divide in Liverpool between all political parties including Militant came to the fore in a acrimonious debate in the Commons last night.

Terry Fields, Labour MP for Broad Green, a Militant supporter, defended the trade unions in Liverpool and said that the people there were used to criticism. "We take on all comers", he said.

He blamed the government for the ills of the city, alleging a lack of investment that had caused poverty, bad housing and unemployment. "Now almost like voyeurs they are coming back to look at the scene of the crime", he added of Tory MPs who constantly interrupted his speech and

cried "more" when he finally sat down.

At one stage, he apologised to the deputy speaker, Miss Betty Boothroyd, telling her to loud Conservative laughter. "When I see my class enemy face to face, I lose my cool sometimes."

Mr Fields said that the city council was the largest employer in Liverpool because there was no big industry there. He said: "We are told it is debt ridden because of the policies of Militant and extremists in the city. That is not the truth."

He regretted redundancies from the council and said that jobs and unfilled vacancies still existed. "Unfortunately, we are not getting them. We

are getting support for a programme of redundancies over and above privatisation of cleansing services which, I believe, the Labour party is totally opposed to."

He wanted a Labour victory at the next general election, but added: "We have to give notice to our incoming Labour government. 'Do not go down the road of the Wilson or the Callaghan administration where you have to face, on the one hand, the demands of big business and the IMF and (on the other) the hopes and aspirations of the working people.'"

Robert Hughes, Tory MP for Harrow West, said: "If anybody was under the misapprehension that the Militant tendency has been driven out of the Labour party, the speech by Mr Fields has nailed that lie."

Michael Heseltine, environment secretary, said that experience in Liverpool showed that Labour was unfit to govern. David Blunkett, for Labour, said that Militant and the Liberal Democrats had one thing in common: they pursued populist policies without willing the means to pay for them.

David Alton, MP for the Mossley Hill division of the city, opening the debate, said that the Labour left had presided over intimidation, suspect use of planning laws, nepotism, personal gain, bullying and threatening schoolchildren. Debt charges were £10,000 an hour.

Mr Heseltine said that the only time the Militants were unwelcome in the Labour party was when the spotlight was on their activities, when the going got rough, and public opinion was focused on them. Then Labour tried to brush them under the carpet.

David Blunkett, Opposition spokesman on local government, attacked Mr Alton and the prime minister for sniping at Liverpool and making critical comments instead of trying to do something to help.

Michael Parkinson, page 14

Major challenged to offer support

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR'S candidate in the Walton by-election challenged the government yesterday to stop "knocking" Liverpool and to give the city some backing.

Hours before the Commons debate attacking Labour's rule in Liverpool, Peter Kilfinch called on John Major to visit the city to see the reality instead of condemning it from the House of Commons.

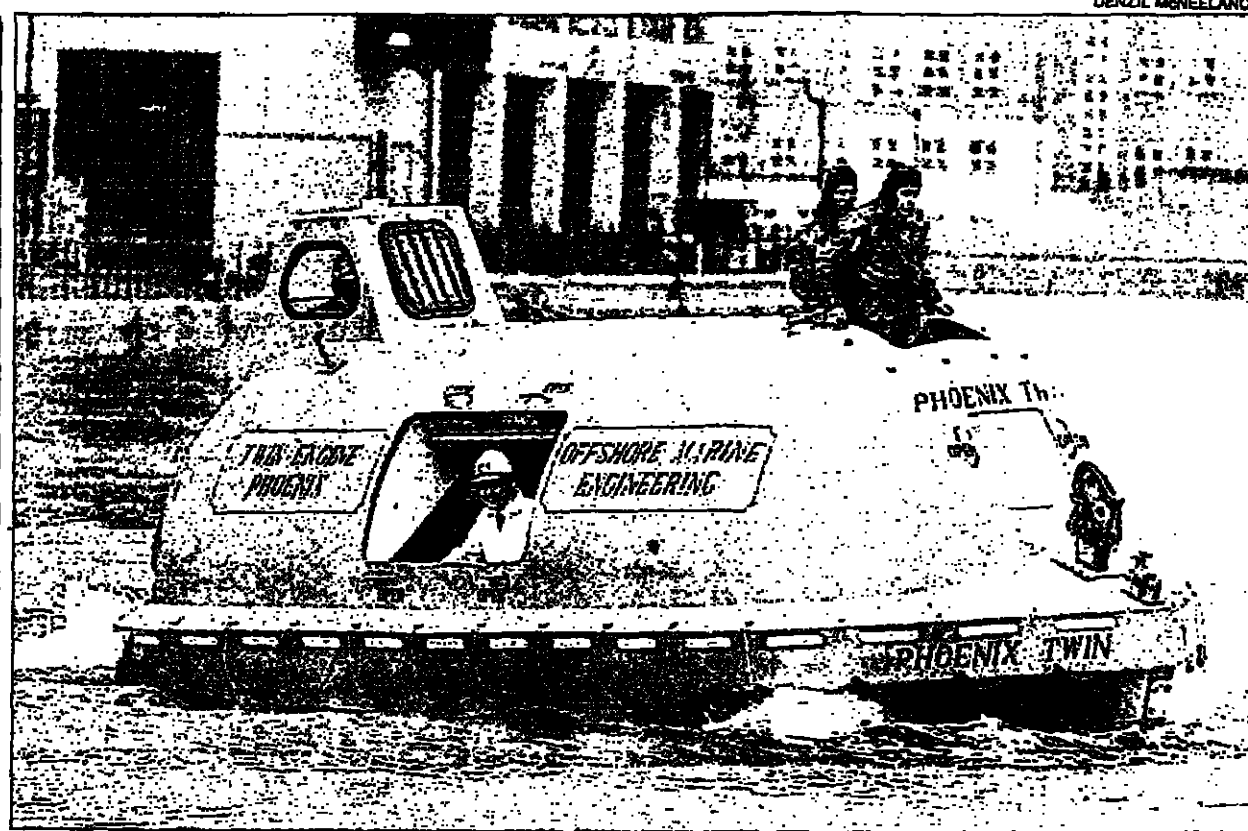
He said that once again they were about to witness the spectacle of Tories and Liberal Democrats "queuing up to knock Liverpool. We are fed up with people who do not know Liverpool attacking this city. What we want to hear is how the government is going to back the city."

He called on the government to show its commitment to Liverpool by restoring regional assistance, which he said had been cut by 70 per cent, to recognise the city's problems as an area with substantial poverty when allocating local authority

grants, to announce a high-speed rail link to the Channel tunnel so that Liverpool could become a bridge between America and Europe and to cancel the second wave of hospital opt-outs so that Walton and Fazakerley hospitals could "stay in the local health service".

He called on the Liberal Democrats, who initiated the Commons debate, to stop voting with Militant in the city. "People in Liverpool have suffered from Militant and Liberal rule locally and Tory rule nationally," they needed no lectures from them.

John MacGregor, the leader of the Commons, said the by-election was bringing home to the country "the shocking reality of real life under a Labour administration. The appalling waste, the gross inefficiency, the abject failure to tackle rampant unionism and overmanning - these are the hallmarks of the so-called moderate socialist council here in Liverpool."



Minister aloft: Eric Forth, an employment minister, on board the Phoenix Twin after launching her in London's Docklands yesterday. The Phoenix Twin is an advanced, twin-engine, offshore survival craft incorporating safety features introduced since the Piper Alpha disaster

Labour defends plan for minimum wage

A NATIONAL minimum wage would save the taxpayer up to £1.5 billion a year and would not cost jobs, Labour said yesterday as it rejected Conservative accusations that the measure would add up to two million people to the dole queues.

In reply to a claim by David Mellor, Treasury chief secretary, that a wages floor would cost public sector employers £1.5 billion alone, Tony Blair, Opposition chief employment spokesman, said the evidence showed that it would produce a surplus to the taxpayer of about £1 billion to £1.5 billion after two years.

Backed by Mr Mellor and the prime minister, Michael Howard, the employment secretary, had been leading a trenchant public assault on the Opposition's plans to compel employers to pay at least half male median earnings. He has

Nicholas Wood reports on the Labour-Tory dispute about a minimum wage

warned the public of big job losses among people in low-paid work because of higher costs. Up to four million people are believed to be in low-paid jobs.

Mr Blair said that Mr Howard's tactics were badly flawed. The Labour spokesman added that his estimates of the likely impact of minimum wage legislation were based on computer models reported by the *National Institute Economic Review* last November and evidence drawn from America and the Continent.

Speaking at a Westminster press conference called to condemn government plans to scrap wages

councils covering 2.5 million workers, Mr Blair said that Mr Howard's figures were discredited and not supported by a single independent economist. "If you look at how the minimum wage has been implemented in other countries, the overwhelming body of evidence is that no jobs have been lost. A minimum decency threshold of pay is an important part of securing both social justice and a more efficient economy."

Mr Howard returned to the fray last night in a briefing document for Tory MPs. He said that under the first phase of Labour's policy - a minimum wage pitched at half average earnings - 100,000 jobs would be destroyed even if differentials with skilled workers were not restored. Jobs lost would rise to 750,000 with restoration of half the skills premium and to 1.25 to 1.5 million with full restoration.

Staffing plan based on guess

By RICHARD FORD

A PROPOSAL that staffing in some personnel and finance sections of Whitehall departments could be cut by a quarter was a guess, the prime minister's efficiency adviser told MPs yesterday.

Sir Angus Fraser said that the recommendation made in his report to John Major was an approximation, based on the range of responsibilities being devolved from central departments to semi-autonomous agencies. "The 25 per cent is an approximation, a guess if you like," Sir Angus told a sub-committee of the Treasury and civil service select committee. Defending the decision to include the figure, he added that business had been much more successful than the civil service in reducing headquarters functions.

He said that if the report had not included the figure as a target, there would have been a danger of inertia taking over within Whitehall.



Hazard area enlarged

The Clyde submarine movements scheme, under which the Royal Navy gives notification of submarine movements in the inner Clyde is to be extended, Archie Hamilton, the armed forces minister, announced.

From next month it will cover all Clyde submarine exercise areas lying wholly or partly within the 12-mile limit.

MPs' hours

John MacGregor, leader of the House, came under renewed pressure at question time to bring forward quickly plans to reform the sitting hours of the Commons. He told MPs that he hoped to make a statement soon.

Pension move

The government is to bring forward regulations to restrict "self investment" by pension funds, Ann Widdecombe, social security minister, said at question time. However she rejected as impractical a backbench plea to end altogether the practice under which a company reinvests in itself its employees' pension contributions.

Field cheered

Frank Field, who fought off an attempt at the weekend to deselect him from his Birkenhead constituency, was cheered by MPs from all sides when he rose to ask a question of the social services secretary. Tony Newton said that, regardless of party, they were all delighted at his success.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: education and science; prime minister. Criminal justice bill, Lords amendments. Lords (2.30): Dangerous dogs bill, second reading.

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Britain will fight wider powers for Brussels

This week The Times takes a look at key issues in the draft EC treaty of union. Today, Tom Walker in Brussels studies the social dimension

BRITAIN will object strongly to any extension of Brussels' power over social affairs that has been drafted into the revised Treaty of Rome text at this week's summit in Luxembourg.

The government has always made clear it considers the European Commission to be overstepping its legal remit when social policy directives are discussed. What incurs the government's wrath even more is the fact that much EC social affairs policy, seen as a vital component of the single European market, would become law through majority voting. No country could then veto proposals.

One difficulty is the vague EC terminology. The draft says the "health and safety of workers in the working environment" must be protected, without being more specific. The government gen-

erally supports EC legislation on health and safety, but objects that such legislation often comes wrapped up with matters it sees as concerning employment law. Britain has to rely on other EC states having similar objections to avoid seeing such packages being passed by majority voting.

Michael Howard, the employment secretary, today will discuss with his EC colleagues the protection of pregnant women and support the commission's proposals for ensuring safe working environments for them. The commission wants employers to carry out "risk assessments" of their workplaces and to either eliminate potential hazards or offer either relocation or paid leave to pregnant employees.

There is also proposed legislation entitling women to 14 weeks maternity leave on a minimum 80 per cent of pay and forbidding employers from dismissing women for any connected with pregnancy. Britain believes such legislation concerns employment, not health and safety, and therefore should only be passed by unanimous vote.

"If you make it too onerous for an employer to take on women, there'll be less jobs for them in the first place," one British official said. Britain is the only EC state where there are proportionally less women out of work than men. "It would have been far simpler for the commission to have split the legislation into one health and safety directive and one employment directive," he said.

The amended treaty has several social clauses that could throw up similar EC directives in future, and lead to more difficulties for Britain. It seeks to guarantee "information and consultation" for workers - Britain views such proposals as the forerunner of collective bargaining at Community level. The draft treaty also outlines equal opportunity and equal treatment in the employment market as a goal. It speaks of the "vocational integration of persons excluded from the labour market", which presumably could extend to training programmes for the unemployed and migrant workers. Any commission directives emerging from these clauses would also be subject to majority voting.

Current EC social affairs legislation includes about a dozen health and safety directives and eight employment directives, some dating from the 1970s. These include three directives on redundancies, insolvencies and liquidation, two on the equal treatment and equal pay of male and female workers and three on equal treatment in member states' social security systems.

For Britain to be able to block measures that come under majority voting, it needs the support of one large and one small EC state. The proportion of votes a state has is weighted according to its size: there are 76 votes in all and 54 votes are enough to enact legislation.

Leading article, page 15

Officials in a froth over watered beer

By DAVID YOUNG

THE Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food is to be asked to tighten the regulations governing the labelling of the amount of alcohol in draught beer after the failure of a prosecution against a pub landlord charged with watering beer.

West Midlands trading standards officers fear that rules brought in to unify Britain and Europe could mean beer drinkers are being served up to 14 per cent excess water when they raise their glasses. They have asked their council to make an approach to the ministry. The regulations introduced in 1989 decree that the alcoholic strength can be plus or minus 0.5 per cent of what is declared.

In Coventry, David Burke, deputy head of trading standards, said landlords who water down their beer will be very difficult to prosecute

through the courts. "Prosecutions are very much harder now because of the regulations," he said. "The change effectively permits the watering of beer. In cases in Coventry we will make the findings known to the brewery, and we will have to rely on them being anxious to protect the good name of their particular beer."

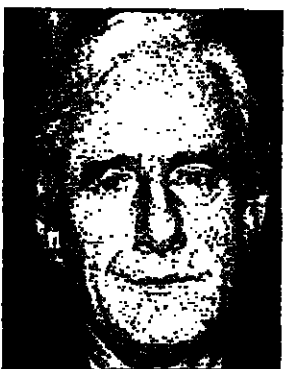
"We will be seeking the support of breweries in making sure beer isn't affected. In countries where wine sales are more important it doesn't make much difference, but when a beer is only 4 per cent alcohol the proportion is quite a serious difference."

In the past, trading standards officers could tell if a beer had been watered down, but now the half a percentage point tolerance means they can no longer be sure of an offence.

Tiny Luxembourg is a mouse that must roar

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

LUXEMBOURG is forcing the pace before the European summit on Friday because small countries in the European Community have to try harder. Luxembourg, with a population of 380,000, is now responsible for the government of a community a thousand times larger. The grand duchy must show fellow EC members not only that it is up to the task, but



Poos: wants to match triumphs of the past

that its Lilliputian status does not diminish its ability to shape the future. Luxembourg is under strong pressure to present the coming summit with a record of achievement over the past six months that matches that of the larger EC presidencies.

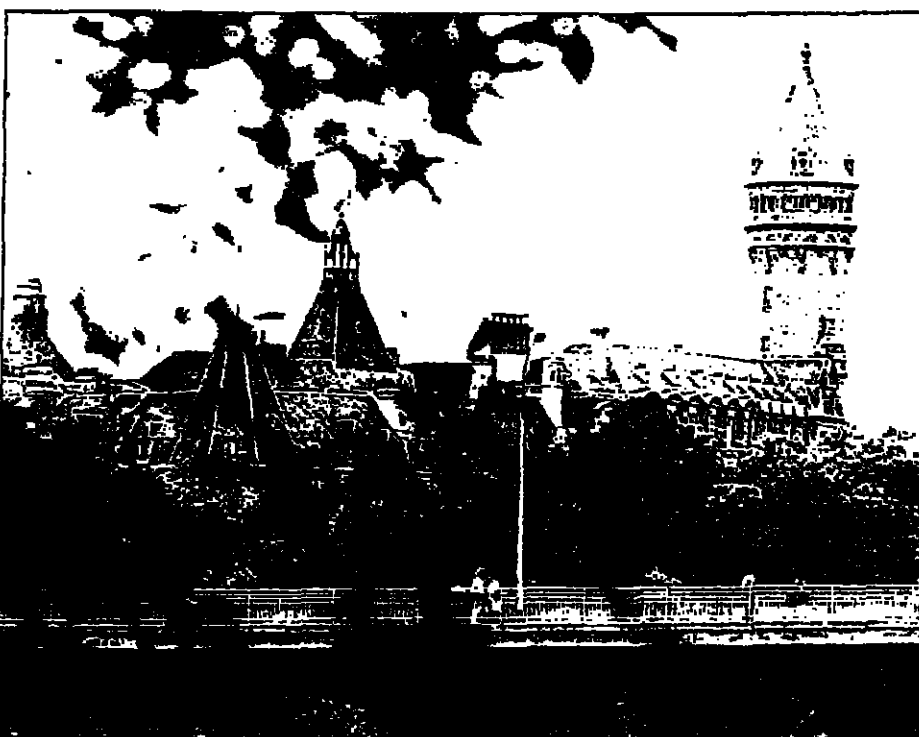
With few embassies overseas, a small civil service and even a government where ministers usually hold at least two offices, resources have been stretched in guiding the two inter-governmental conferences into treaty codification. The French have been able to nudge their neighbour in the direction they wanted the presidency to go. So, too, has the European Commission, with its offer of help and administrative resources. Luxembourg has made a comfortable living from its European commitment. One of the six founding members of the common market, the spirit of federalism, contrasting with a certain smug provincialism, runs deep. It first pooled its sovereignty in a currency union with Belgium. More than a generation ago, it formed the Benelux customs union with Belgium and The Netherlands. This was the precursor of today's Schengen agreement, which is the EC's first step towards a community without frontiers.

Europe has been a fountain of wealth for Luxembourg. It houses the European Court of Justice, the European Investment Bank, the Court of Auditors, the secretariat of the European

Parliament, most of the EC publications offices, and for three months of each year, it is the site of the council meetings by EC ministers. Integration and the growth of the Euro-bureaucracy have paid dividends. It must be the only EC member where the European elections are considered more important than national elections.

Past prosperity, however, has depended largely on exploiting the EC's loopholes. Taxes are low and excise duty almost non-existent. Its banks have been a haven for Belgians and French avoiding high taxes. Like Switzerland, Luxembourg is trying to stop money laundering and criminal investments without killing the golden goose.

The 1992 single market will block the loopholes. Luxembourg suffered a moment of panic last year when it saw its prosperity slipping away, and made a brief alliance with Britain to stop the harmonisation of value-added tax. Having only six MEPs, it shares Britain's scepticism about the European Parliament. It also fears the loss of its sole commissioner in moves to streamline EC government in preparation for enlargement. And it knows that any sen-



In the spotlight: life in the EC has forced fairytale Luxembourg to play a leading role in the community's political and economic realities

sible arrangement would cut out the obligatory meetings of ministers in Luxembourg rather than Brussels.

An alliance with Britain to play down the coming summit was never on the cards, however. Jacques Poos, the

foreign minister, wants a triumph to match past Luxembourg presidencies - the famous "Luxembourg compromise" which ended France's boycott of the EC, and the passage of the Single European Act in 1985.

Integrationists have conspired with him to keep up the pace. The little country, where politics is the art of consensus, has no option but to agree.

Diary, page 14

EC staff call new strike

Brussels - Thousands of European Community staff decided yesterday to call a second two-day strike this week in support of wage demands, throwing preparations for the EC summit into disarray. In a meeting, union leaders overwhelmingly approved a strike for today and tomorrow after nearly all 25,000 EC staff stayed away from work last Monday and Tuesday.

This week's strike coincides with final preparations for the two-day summit of EC government leaders starting on Friday in Luxembourg. "The summit will be affected since not all documents will be ready because of the strike," a union official said. The European Parliament decided to postpone all committee meetings scheduled for today and tomorrow. (AP)

Rural policy change urged

A new common rural policy to replace the European Community's discredited common agricultural policy was called for yesterday by The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (Michael Hornsby writes).

The aim, outlined in *Changing Countryside Policies*, would be to integrate food production with countryside enhancement and allow countries more freedom in shaping their policies. Money now spent on propping up prices should be channelled into conservation and afforestation, says the report.

Water cure

Waters around the European Community are becoming cleaner for swimmers but, the European Commission said, many resorts are still contaminated by bacteria. Ireland's lakes and beaches were the cleanest of the 18,000 resorts tested in the 12 nations during 1989 and 1990. (Reuters)

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Yugoslavia's rebel republics urged to stay in federation

FROM TIM JUDAH IN LJUBLJANA AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Yugoslav prime minister, Ante Markovic, yesterday appealed to Croatia and Slovenia not to leave the Yugoslav federation tomorrow.

In a toughly-worded speech to the Croatian parliament in Zagreb he warned that the move would be a "catastrophe" and he said that he would use "every available means" to prevent the independence of the two republics. The speech received a cool reception in Zagreb and the Slovenian capital of Ljubljana as critics responded that Mr Markovic had said nothing that he had not said before.

In Ljubljana, France Bucar, president of the Slovene parliament, said: "What can Markovic do? He has no

effective means." The president of the Croatian parliament, Zarko Domljan, said that if Mr Markovic intended to use the Yugoslav army, "then we'll fight." Darko Bekic, a senior adviser to the Croatian president, Franjo Tudjman, said: "He did not distance himself from Serbian hegemonism and he can't legally use the army because only the federal presidency can give it orders - but of course this no longer functions."

In Brussels yesterday the European Community said it could teach Yugoslav how to overcome national antagonisms. Abel Matutes, the commissioner in charge of relations with Mediterranean countries, told the Yugoslav foreign minister,

Budimir Loncar that the EC could help his country to find a democratic compromise as it struggles to survive in the face of separatist forces.

"The community does not underestimate the importance of the merit of national demands which are appearing in Yugoslavia as in other European countries," he said at the signing of a financial aid agreement between the EC and Yugoslavia.

"However, the community believes that national antagonisms can and should be overcome through conciliation. The EC is the living proof that this is possible."

EC foreign ministers declared on Sunday they would not recognise unilateral declarations of independence by Slovenia and Croatia.

Mr Matutes said the signature of the protocol was a gesture of solidarity towards Yugoslavia's federal government on the eve of decisions which could put the country's very existence at stake.

Both Croatia and Slovenia are now set to enter the twilight world of an independence which no foreign country has said it will recognise, and in which both republics will continue to participate in federal bodies. Lojze Peterlec, the Slovene prime minister, said yesterday that his republic would carry on sending representatives to Belgrade but that its deputies would withdraw from the federal parliament. He also said that in his view frontier signs welcoming people to Yugoslavia should stay up "for the moment". In blunter terms Dr Bucar said: "We will recognise the federal government as a transitional government and as a trustee which is there to liquidate the present enterprise called Yugoslavia."

In Zagreb Dr Bekic said that Croatia's independence would be "a gesture... in practice it will not be materialised immediately. We shall still have thousands of formal and other links to Belgrade."

In effect no one has the slightest idea of what will happen once the two northern republics declare their independence. Both Slovenia and Croatia say that their declarations do not mean an end to negotiations about the future of the territory currently called Yugoslavia because they are still proposing an "alliance of sovereign states".

They describe this as a common market of the existing six republics which, if they can agree, would pool some sovereignty, possibly keeping the federal army and the present currency, the dinar. This proposal has been bitterly opposed by Serbia whose political motto has been that all Serbs must live in one state.

As there are more than 500,000 Serbs in Croatia alone, this implies that if Yugoslavia does not survive then a Greater Serbia must be created.

Yesterday afternoon workmen in Ljubljana were erecting seating and a flagpole in front of parliament for tomorrow's celebrations. However, it is unclear if the flagpole will be used as the Slovene Assembly has been unable to agree on a new flag or coat of arms. In Zagreb the Croatian banner is flown across the city and is displayed in nearly every shop window.



Swiss-style cure for Yugoslav ills

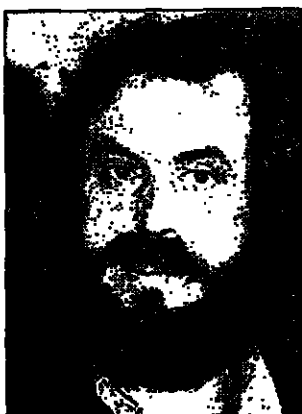
By DAVID WATTS
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

WITH his luxuriant beard and unruly mass of dark hair, Vuk Draskovic looks like Jesus Christ. In his lapel is a little gold-coloured button of the Saviour's head as though he carries his authority.

Mr Draskovic, the leader of the Serbian Renewal Movement, is in fact trying to save his country from what he has said would be "a stupid, unnecessary war". But he insists he is no politician, just a writer temporarily playing the role. War will come, he says, if Serbs and Croats, Slovenians, Muslims and Jews are not prepared to make Yugoslavia work within its present ethnic boundaries. The solution is for Prince Alexander II to return under a Swiss-style cantonal system.

"I'm sure one million people would come to meet him on the streets of Belgrade, not as a king but as a symbol of democracy, past tradition and of the destruction of communism." The object would be the creation of a new, democratic Yugoslavia "which would be incorporated economically, spiritually and culturally into the big family of European democracy".

Over the next few days Mr Draskovic has scheduled several meetings with the prince in London to try and convince him of the importance of his new mission. His British government interlocutors he says have been "surprised and delighted" at his idea for a cantonal Yugoslavia which he sees as the only way forward.



Draskovic advocates cantonal system

"Everybody who thinks that the dissolution of Yugoslavia is possible peacefully is wrong... if war came there would be a danger that Europe would be involved, but there would be a Lebanon in the Balkans and that would mean a Lebanon in Europe."

A cantonal Yugoslavia has attracted the support of many Croats, Slovenes and Muslims, he says. "This would be a real European project. Europe is going to create economic regions, cultural regions, tourist regions - and we have to do the same." But the only way to ensure that Yugoslavia moves to the future without tears will be through pressure from outside and street demonstrations, protests and media criticism of the regime from within. "We will overthrow Milosevic democratically by the end of the year," he says, referring to Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian leader.



Feeling the heat: a man wiping perspiration from a Croatian national guardsman, in front of the parliamentary building in Zagreb yesterday on the day that Ante Markovic, the Yugoslav prime minister, asked Serbia and Croatia not to secede for fear of provoking a civil war

Stalin's interpreter tells his secrets

A dispute between Churchill and Stalin is recalled by the dictator's interpreter, who is one of his few surviving associates. David Ljunggren writes from Moscow

STALIN's wartime interpreter witnessed some of the great events of the century but, unlike others, survived the Soviet dictator's frequent purges. "When I think about it, I should have been really afraid sitting next to Stalin, because I knew a lot and any moment he could have..."

Valentin Berezhkov, now 75, makes a chopping movement with his hand. For four years he interpreted at hundreds of Stalin's meetings, once witnessing a two-day row between Stalin and Churchill, and read countless secret documents. He translated at a Berlin meeting in November 1940 at which Hitler fooled Moscow into thinking he would not attack the Soviet Union, and was present a few months later when the Nazis told the Soviet ambassador their countries were at war.

Mr Berezhkov, who has just written his autobiography, was an engineer negotiating a contract in Germany when a chance meeting resulted in his becoming translator to the Soviet foreign minister.

work at the foreign ministry, which was very short of staff after the massive purges of the 1930s. "I would not have made it at the front because I knew too many secrets. They could either destroy me or keep me at their side. They had no other choice," said Mr Berezhkov, who was soon back in Berlin as first secretary at the Soviet embassy.

Although Mr Berezhkov was told by several politburo members that Stalin liked him, "I thought it best not to approach Stalin and ask him for promotion. Perhaps that's why I survived." He last saw Stalin in December 1944. Although he now considers him to be a criminal and a monster, he admits he was crushed when the dictator died in 1953. "I was shocked. I cried, as though I had lost someone close to me. I especially remembered all the

days, evenings and nights close to him."

Mr Berezhkov's first meeting with Stalin in late 1941 was a shock. "My first impression was that it was someone else. He was a very small man, very thin, his uniform was hanging off him. His face was grey like the earth, no colour at all, rather ugly," he said.

But the unprepossessing exterior belied a masterful negotiator capable of charming everyone he met. Mr Berezhkov said. "He was a good actor, depending on what impression he wanted to make. He could be very rude, as he was in 1942 when Churchill told him there would not be a second front. He was terrible, he was insulting, saying the British were afraid of the Germans and would never win this war."

At one point Stalin accused British troops of "running away from the Germans in their underwear". "I think he was acting, for on the third day he was again polite, wonderful. He threw a banquet for Churchill. It was something like a cold and hot shower," Mr Berezhkov said.

Stalin's paranoia was such that those around him feared making a chance remark which would provoke a visit from the secret police. "If I came across him in the Kremlin, I did not know what to do. We had to be cautious, not bring any suspicion on ourselves. I would press up against the wall, say 'Good-day, Comrade Stalin', and then wait for his bodyguards to pass by." (Reuter)



Stalin: unprepossessing but a masterful negotiator

Choice of tank is dismissed as farce

Berlin - The British government's decision to buy Challenger 2 tanks was taken "despite the clear preference of the army for the German Leopard 2", according to a report in the newspaper Die Welt yesterday (Ian Murray writes).

The article, which described the process of tendering for the order as a farce, claimed that an inferior British tank was chosen to prevent unemployment in the defence industry at a time when the government was worried about losing popularity. According to Die Welt, the government never had any intention of allowing a foreign firm to build tanks for the army, although it used the specifications of the Leopard 2 to pressure Vickers into developing a better machine. "You can understand Britain wanting to choose its own tank," said Die Welt. "Only its partners will remember that, if London again seeks to criticise them for blocking free competition because of national interests."

Police on trial

Paris - Three former police officers have gone on trial in connection with charges that police planted weapons at the scene of a raid in August 1982 against suspected militants of the underground Irish National Liberation Army. Two are accused of intimidating witnesses; the third is charged as an accessory. (AFP)

Rabbi's fears

Bucharest - Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen of Romania fears all Romanian Jews might soon have to flee to Israel to escape a wave of anti-Semitism. He was alarmed by allegations that Jews were taking over, and by attempts to glorify Ion Antonescu, the wartime dictator. (Reuter)

A close shave

Prague - A dozen former dissidents who refused to shave for 23 years to protest against the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 gathered in Prague's Wenceslaus Square to remove them as a celebration of the withdrawal last week. There was also a musical celebration here, attended by President Havel.

Greek purge

Athens - The Greek Communist party has disregarded President Gorbachev's advice and removed six reformers from party ranks in a purge of anti-Stalinist elements. The move was seen as a prelude to the dissolution of the Leftist Alliance, the third largest group in parliament.

Kohl off to Kiev

Bonn - Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, is to fly to Kiev on July 5 for a meeting with President Gorbachev to discuss the Soviet leader's "shopping list" for aid, which he will later be putting before the London meeting of the seven leading industrialised democracies for help with his economic reforms.

Saddam role

Jerusalem - Aharon Eilat, aged 50, an Israeli actor living in America, has agreed to play Saddam Hussein in a Hollywood film after Omar Sharif turned down the role. The Yediot Aharanot newspaper reported. He recently portrayed a terrorist in a film based on the Lockerbie air-traffic bombing. (AFP)

Mayor says Venice may become antique Disneyland

FROM PAUL BOMPARD IN ROME

UGO Bergamo, the mayor of Venice, says that the city must not become an antique Disneyland. "We are becoming a sterile museum city without a normal day to day life of its own, without a population of Venetians - except for those who cater to the tourist trade."

In addition to rising water levels, pollution in its canals, and an increasing overflow of visitors, Venice must also battle against an exodus of Venetians which began in the 1950s and is getting worse. The many tourists have been joined by daytrippers from Eastern Europe, filling the city to bursting point while the permanent residents drift steadily away.

The latest figures show that the steady exodus to the mainland continues. In 1951 there were 174,905 residents.

In May, there were only 77,634, a loss of almost 60 per cent, or more than 2,000 people a year.

"Last week we had eight weddings in Venice," said Signor Bergamo. "Only two of those couples intend to stay and live in Venice." The unique pageant of a gondolier wedding is attractive, but the difficulties of living and working in a city with a stagnant local economy and communication problems are not.

"Most Venetians cannot afford to live in their own city anymore," explained Signor Bergamo. "When flats go up for sale they are snapped up by rich Milanese, Romans or foreigners. This has pushed prices too high for a young Venetian couple with a normal income. So Venice has become a city of strangers, who come for a weekend every

now and then." A modest, two-bedroom flat in a not particularly attractive location sells for about £300,000. To that must be added perhaps another £100,000 or £200,000 for restoration, furnishing and decoration, all of which are incredibly expensive in Venice. The same size apartment on the Grand Canal or similar settings runs into millions.

● Pisa - Rainfall has reversed the list of the leaning tower of Pisa by nearly a tenth of an inch, according to experts monitoring the monument.

Professor Brunetto Palla attributed the straightening to heavy rain earlier this year which, he said, had swollen the underground water table and pushed up the ground under the tower. A similar phenomenon took place in 1936, 1939, 1957 and in 1961, he said. (AFP)

Barrage of questions for general

FROM RICHARD BESTON IN JERUSALEM

WHEN Lieutenant-General Ehud Barak, Israel's most decorated soldier, was appointed chief of staff in April this year it seemed inconceivable that within less than three months he would be facing widespread criticism of his leadership from the public as well as the political and military establishment.

And yet tomorrow, when the former special forces commander arrives at the Knesset, he is likely to be greeted by a hostile barrage of questions over the release of film showing undercover army units arresting Palestinian suspects in the occupied territories.

For a man who is notoriously publicity-shy, the move was out of character and appeared to break the most basic rules of security operations. Until Friday it was against the law to broadcast or publish details of the secret army units which operate in the West Bank and Gaza Strip against leaders of the intifada.

UN keeps order in the border zone

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN UM QASR, IRAQ

WHILE much of Iraq remains in turmoil, a United Nations mission from 36 countries including Britain has succeeded in less than two months in transforming the tense demilitarised zone between Iraq and Kuwait into an oasis of relative calm.

The peacekeepers are here to log any breach of the strict rules covering military movements in the air or on the ground and to keep a hawk eye on any attempt by either side to permit personnel other than policemen or the members of the two civil administrations into the zone.

The determination of the UN effort has been contrasted with the ragtag nature of its under-financed operation in northern Iraq, albeit in different circumstances. "If the will and the cash is there, this proves the system can work", one European envoy said.

In this fly-blown town, formerly Iraq's only naval base, Gary Brown, aged 26, a British captain from the Royal Tank Regiment, yesterday surveyed the pathetic remains of Iraq's navy, which Iraqi squads come in at night to try to



recover. "The attempts are getting much fewer. At last they are beginning to take us seriously," he said.

Like the 19 other British observers in Unikom (United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission), Captain Brown, from Cheshire, is a volunteer who performs his task unpaid. He was among a long list of Britons who missed the Gulf war and were anxious to serve in the desert.

A few miles down the road in Kuwait, across an Iraqi border post which still has graffiti declaring "No east, no west, Saddam is best" and "Yes, yes for Saddam Hussein", sits Captain David Rowlands, a Royal Engineer from Pontypool who keeps watch from an uncomfortable

spot on a roof. "It is so bloody hot that I often pray that the smoke from the oil fires will cover the sun. But then you can only see with a torch, even at noon," he said as we endured a wind which felt like being whipped by hot towels at temperatures of 110F.

The post is plagued by a pack of 30 wild dogs, rats (for which its eight UN members have set traps), black scorpions, giant spiders and mosquitoes which explain the nets which give a colonial feel to the sweltering dormitory.

"Relations with the local Iraqis are good. We buy in their shops and they help us with things like ice," explained the captain, aged 22, who studies from an antiquarian copy of a book called The Spoken Arabic of Iraq. "We avoid any discussion on politics or about Saddam Hussein."

One side of the 174-mile long DMZ is three miles of Kuwaiti territory and on the other, double that width of Iraqi land. In the populated parts the huge idealised portraits of Saddam have reappeared after being torn down during the brief uprising by Shia Muslims.

A five-member UN team has been marking out the border which has been in dispute for decades in an attempt to lessen the chances of another war. Kuwait still insists this is a possibility, but UN experts think it is unlikely in the immediate future.

A new conflict between Iraq and Iran is considered more probable, but the tension between Iraq to the north of the DMZ is out of range of the border observers. One of the most frequent breaches of the zone are those by unidentified allied aircraft spying on what is reported by Western military sources as a dangerous military build-up by both Iraqi and Iranian forces.

"After teething troubles, this difficult mission is a success," said Major-General Gunther Grandt from Austria, the commander and a former chief of UN peacekeepers in Cyprus.

"There is no shooting. There are fewer incursions from either side and the observers are in good spirits. Despite problems like the hostile desert, the oil fires and the lack of infra-structure in Kuwait, the situation is good."

Fears rise over expelled Iraqis

FROM REUTERS IN KUWAIT

KUWAIT has deported more than 400 Iraqis in the last two weeks, and is hampering Red Cross efforts to monitor expulsions that could violate Geneva conventions, Western officials said yesterday.

An official said that they are taken in buses from detention centres to the Iraqi border, where they are handed over to Iraqi customs officials. Witnesses saw some of the Iraqis weeping as they crossed the border. Western officials said most had lived in Kuwait for a long time.

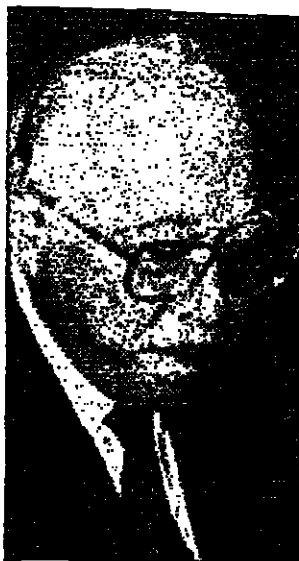
The officials, who monitor border traffic, were unable to say whether the Iraqis were being treated according to Geneva convention rules because Kuwait had not asked the International Committee of the Red Cross to participate in the operation. The fourth Geneva convention stipulates that no one may be repatriated to a hostile country against their will after a war. A Gulf war ceasefire, signed in the Saudi capital, Riyadh on March 7 by Kuwait, Iraq and

the allied powers, also banned forced repatriation because it could lead to revenge attacks against refugees.

To the alarm of international human rights groups, thousands of people, in particular Palestinians and Iraqis, who are suspected of having sided with Baghdad during the war, are being rounded up and deported with their families. Over 200 people are being tried by martial law courts on charges of collaboration, which carry the death sentence.

Iraqis, Palestinians and bedouin say they are finding it difficult to return to their pre-invasion jobs in Kuwait, which included posts in the civil service, police and army, and face hostility from Kuwaitis. The officials said the Red Cross was negotiating with the Kuwaiti authorities to allow it to participate in voluntary repatriation programmes and had made some progress. There had been no deportations since last Thursday.

Japanese financiers pay price of links with underworld



Iwasaki: corporate ethics dictated his resignation

JAPAN reacted with astonishment yesterday that the presidents of two of the nation's most powerful financial institutions are to resign to take responsibility for their companies' dealings with Japan's second-largest underworld gang, and for illegally wooing clients by promising lavish compensation for losses on the financial markets.

A wan Yoshinobu Tabuchi, president of Nomura Securities company, the world's largest securities firm, announced his resignation yesterday morning. This was followed by a resignation announcement from Takuya Iwasaki, president of Nikko Securities company, Japan's third-largest brokerage firm.

Mr Tabuchi is to remain as an adviser to Nomura. Mr Iwasaki will become vice-chairman of Nikko without executive responsibilities.

Both companies are suspected of providing large loans through subsidiaries to the *Inagawa-kai*, a gang of about 8,250 *yakuza*, the tattooed hoodlums who comprise the underworld.

To compound the shame of the two firms, the National Tax Administration Agency has disclosed that all Japan's "big four" brokers — Nomura, Daiwa, Nikko and Yamaichi — are suspected of compensating important clients for 65 billion yen (£547 million) in stock and bond market losses between 1987 and 1990.

Senior officials from Dai-

Japan's two most powerful securities firms are embroiled in claims of financial and criminal irregularities.
Joanna Pitman reports from Tokyo

wa Securities and Yamaichi Securities also admitted for the first time yesterday that they, too, had compensated clients for the losses suffered during last year's stock market debacle. Under the securities and exchange law, securities firms are prohibited from promising in advance to reimburse clients if they incur losses. To the embarrassment of the authorities, one of Nomura's compensated clients was a government-affiliated pension fund.

Corporate ethics dictate

that, in the event of a multiple scandal, a top-level resignation must be the sacrifice. In a country where the public admission of guilt results in extreme loss of face and is generally regarded as sufficient punishment, the presidential resignations and displays of contrition will be considered an adequate purification. Nomura's chairman, Setsuya Tabuchi (no relation), also announced yesterday that he would step down from his post as vice-chairman of Keidanren, Japan's

most influential business lobby, as a result of the scandal.

It is an open secret that Nomura and Mr Tabuchi craved respectability in the cut-throat world of finance, especially in the light of the company's growth during the 1980s and its success at ousting Toyota Motors from its position as Japan's most profitable company.

However, given the stock market tumble of 1990, which sliced 40 per cent off the value of individual and corporate investors' savings, the image of securities companies could not be much worse. Stockbrokers are known as *kabu-ya* — stock vendors — and are thought to be no more distinguished than fishmongers.

In comparison with the respectability of bankers, the noble and highly educated men who rescued the war-torn economy and built it up, the typical *kabu-ya* is far from wholesome. He is a graduate of a lesser university and a member of the white socks brigade. In the mind of the average Japanese, a *kabu-ya* spends his sober hours (which coincide with the hours of the stock market) amassing as much money as possible, and in his remaining waking hours swaggers from bar to bar.

Such an image could scarcely differ more from the perception that has been cultivated for their overseas offices. Both Nomura and Nikko have large operations in London and have been

careful to promote a persona that is squeaky clean. Nomura International in London counts a former head of the British treasury, Sir Douglas Wess, as a co-chairman and was the largest employer in Britain of Oxbridge graduates in 1987.

All is not lost for the likes of Nomura, for the Japanese have notoriously short memories. Mitsuokoshi department store has managed a remarkable recovery from the shameful firing of its scandal-ridden president, Shigeru Okada, in 1982. Today the store is regarded as the Fortnum & Mason of Japan.

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Market report, page 26

Bush faces mounting pressure to fire Sununu

FROM PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush is under intensifying pressure to dismiss John Sununu, his chief of staff, a move which could dramatically change the character of his administration.

Mr Bush gave a thumbs-up sign when he was asked on Sunday night whether Mr Sununu would keep his job. But yesterday morning aides reported continuing uncertainty after a weekend in which the once-fearful former governor of New Hampshire became a "living joke".

Mr Sununu said yesterday that he hoped to keep his job past the 1992 election and that the pressure against him was "all part of the job". The president, however, was reportedly still "hurt and angry" that the man who runs the Bush White House had been shown to have misled junior officials on the ownership of a jet he wished to borrow.

Long-time friends of the president, led by Nicholas Brady, the treasury secretary, and pollster Robert Teeter, have become emboldened to press for the removal of the man who has come to symbolise the hard side of the presidency. They are supported by Samuel Skinner, the influential transport secretary, and Robert Mosbacher, the commerce secretary and one of the president's close Texas allies. Even if he survives, Mr Sununu, who once brushed off abuse by claiming to be a gentle pussycat in the president's service, is not the power he used to be. "The cat lost one life when he accepted the

revised rules for his use of government planes on dentist trips," said one official. "He lost his second by taking a White House limousine on a stamp-buying expedition, his third life by begging rides on big company jets, his fourth by being less than frank about who his lenders were. I don't think he has five left."

The opposition to Mr Sununu is partly personal and partly political. He has few friends in the White House, not least because he acted so enthusiastically to cut staff pay and perks when the administration was formed. Those affected have little sympathy for the man caught taking one free ride too many.

Mr Sununu does have political allies, but they have been slow to come to his aid. One senior conservative adviser said yesterday that he liked a "weakened Sununu" since he was much easier to deal with and much more effective in building coalitions. Even this aide, however, said that the chief of staff had failed at his central task — of making the president look good.

Mr Sununu is famously loyal. But he is also famously prickly on the subject of personal "ethics" — a word used in Washington to refer to the penumbra of privileges which surround the exercise of power. Mr Sununu's defenders used to say that, if a free plane ride was the worst that anyone could find for an ethics attack on the administration, that was a pretty good record. But that line of argument is little heard now.

The president is alarmed. Boyden Gray, his personal "ethics counsellor", is reported in *Newsweek* to have exploded with anger when he discovered that the owner of a borrowed jet had been "misunderstood" in communications with Mr Sununu's office. The chief of staff was contrite, publishing an unusual apology for any appearance of wrongdoing. But Mr Gray's office remains suspicious.

Moderate Republicans would love to rid themselves of Mr Sununu, whom they associate with aggressive, unnecessary electioneering and the brutal repression of potential allies in Congress and elsewhere. Conservatives are more cautious. They fear that a replacement would be too soft and that, in an administration without ideology to glue it together, Mr Sununu might be playing the role of a large bolt — ugly, but necessary for the building's survival.

Township peace pact breached

FROM GAVIN BELL
IN JOHANNESBURG

ATTEMPTS to restore peace in South Africa's black townships have been compromised by a resurgence of political violence between supporters of the Inkatha Freedom party and the African National Congress.

At least 23 people were killed and 16 injured in Natal at the weekend, soon after leaders of the two organisations and the ruling National party met in Johannesburg to draft proposals for a tripartite peace committee. Police said 13 people died in Ndalandi township near Richmond, and three in nearby Esimozoni, prompting the postponement of peace talks due to have been held there yesterday by regional representatives of Inkatha and the ANC.

Masked gunmen who burst into a house at Taylor's Halt, near Pietermaritzburg, killed three adults and four children, and police fired birdshot to disperse an angry mob after shooting broke out at an Inkatha rally north of Durban.

● Trial protest: The veteran anti-apartheid campaigner Archbishop Trevor Huddleston joined about 150 black workers and ANC leaders in a protest against the kidnapping and assault trial of four trade union leaders.

Addressing the protesters outside the Johannesburg magistrates' court before the trial began, the 78-year-old Anglican archbishop said the prosecution was a breach of a government pledge to the ANC to halt political trials. (AFP)



Cooling down: with not a thought for Wimbledon or the Test match, a family of ducks and Muscovites try to keep cool at a lake in central Moscow yesterday during a heatwave in which temperatures have soared past 90°F for the past few days

Vietnam party blocks off the path to democracy

By DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

FACED with a decisive congress of its ruling communist party, the Vietnamese leadership has rejected political pluralism as a means of breathing life into its flagging economic reform programme.

Like the Chinese before them, the Vietnamese party yesterday began its seventh party congress by looking for ways to have its communist ideology and eat its capitalist cake too. Economic reform has long been accepted at most party levels but by Nguyen Van Linh, the secretary-general, made clear in his opening address, political liberalisation is a concept the hierarchy finds difficult to stomach.

Mr Linh acknowledged that socialism was "under strong and unprecedented criticism from many directions" — an apparent reference to the democratic revolutions that have cost Vietnam its political and economic allies in eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. "Together with economic renewal, we will undertake to renovate step by step the political system," Mr Linh said without giving details.

But he added: "A hasty renovation in politics will result in political instability which in turn will cause difficulties and obstacles to the renovation process. In the present condition of our country, it is not objectively necessary to establish a political

mechanism of pluralism and multiparty system."

Though Mr Linh's comments on democracy may have been a sop to conservatives in preparation for more liberal measures, this seems unlikely and the party appears fated to continue reaching for a bright economic future while remaining mired in its political past.

The Vietnamese economy is in unprecedented trouble, and without the Soviet Union to come to its rescue. Since the end of January, all trade between the two countries has been put on a strictly commercial basis and aid has been cut. A last-minute appeal from Mr Linh while in Moscow last month failed to soften any hearts. The results have been

shortages of fuel, cotton, steel and fertilizer, plus an outstanding debt to Moscow of \$18 billion (£11bn). This has meant that the flood of boat people in to Hong Kong from the less well off north continues.

Unhappily for Vietnam, as relations have withered with communists in the East, there has been no improvement in those with the West and only France has made significant investments. The United States remains determined to punish Vietnam for the decade of 1975 and, bitter irony, one of the men who could have played a key role in that process, Nguyen Co Thach, the foreign minister, seems likely to lose his political position because he has so far failed to bring Washington round.

Another reformer who may go before the congress ends is Mr Linh himself. He has been unwell for some time. But failure to agree on a successor would mean he might have to stay on. The congress is expected to continue the process begun in 1986 and promote more technocrats to help speed economic reform. But one thing is certain: before the end of the congress the party must take the plunge into all-out reform or risk not only the loss of communist party authority, but also economic collapse.



Linh: should economy come before ideology?

Cambodia hopes meet new setback

FROM NEIL KELLY IN PATTAYA, THAILAND

DESPITE progress in recent days towards a peaceful settlement of the Cambodian conflict, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the resistance leader, said last night that the peace plan proposed by the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council appeared to be doomed.

After presiding over discussions between the four warring factions, the prince said that Hun Sen, the Cambodian prime minister, would accept only sections of the UN plan, which consequently could not be implemented.

"The resistance loves the plan," he said. "Hun Sen likes a few parts." He said that the five permanent members had warned Cambodian leaders that United Nations assistance in various forms would not be forthcoming unless the peace plan was implemented fully.

The UN plan will be discussed by all groups at a further meeting today but Prince Sihanouk said he had gathered during a personal conversation with Mr Hun Sen that he would never accept the plan in its present form. The prince would not elaborate, but the Cambodian prime minister has claimed that the plan does not provide adequate safeguards against the return to power of the Khmer Rouge which were

accused of committing genocide while in power.

The UN plan, which calls for the disarming of all military forces and UN supervision of the Cambodian government in the transitional period before elections, has been accepted in full by the three resistance groups, including the Khmer Rouge. But the Cambodian prime minister told Prince Sihanouk that Cambodians as a sovereign people should solve their own problems without abiding by the will of the big powers at the UN.

Disagreements have also emerged between the Phnom Penh government and the resistance groups over verification of the ceasefire and the cut-off of foreign military supplies. The resistance wants UN supervision but that was rejected by the Cambodian government.

The mercurial prince, a former ruler of Cambodia, said despite the latest setbacks there had been real progress. "We have peace at least on paper," he said with a laugh. The four factions, he said, had confirmed that a nationwide ceasefire was now operating and they had agreed to stop accepting foreign military aid. The war has been sustained for 12½ years largely by military supplies from China and the Soviet Union.

Navy base bears the scars of eruption

Manila — Subic Bay naval base, still covered in sticky volcanic ash from the eruption of Mount Pinatubo, is struggling back to normality. (Vaudine England writes). "We have drinking water, and power in some of the buildings, but not all barracks," Jerry Moore, spokesman for the base, reported. Whereas the base used to produce six million gallons of drinking water, it can now only provide 1.5 million.

The base's airstrip, Cubi Point, is "pretty much open", he said. In addition to two F8 jets which flew out on the weekend, some C130 transport planes and a C141 have been able to land.

The naval base, which gave refuge to personnel from the near-deserted Clark air base throughout the eruptions, is now home to its usual corps of about 8,000 men and at least 5,000 airmen from Clark. "Our base is grey — the same colour as the ships," said Petty Officer Moore.

Coffin handover

Panmunjom — North Korea handed over wooden coffins bearing the remains of 11 American servicemen killed in the 1950-53 Korean war, in an apparent gesture to improve relations with the United States. The two governments agreed in principle to form a committee to search for more than 9,000 military personnel who are still missing and unaccounted for. (AP)

Kiss of faith



Los Angeles — Roseanne Barr, the comedienne, and Tom Arnold, her husband, above, seal their second wedding ceremony with a kiss at a synagogue here. Mr Arnold recently converted to Judaism and the couple wanted to reaffirm their vows, first taken 14 months ago, in a Jewish ceremony. Ms Barr will now use her husband's surname professionally. (AP)

Conflict threat

Ottawa — Environmental problems will lead to increasing conflict and misery with consequences for developed and underdeveloped nations, according to a report prepared for the Canadian government. It said East-West confrontation was being replaced by a North-South contest with the environment as the key issue.

Going private

Ulan Bator — A Mongolian auctioneer began to dismantle 70 years of communist state ownership by selling a shop and plot of land to a private businessman. Gookhormaa Bayargalan, aged 37, a former pig farmer, spent 310,000 tugrik (£4,755) and became the first man to buy land from the state. (Reuters)

Kim to stay

Seoul — South Korea's main opposition leader, Kim Dae Jung, said he would stay as leader of the New Democratic party. He offered to resign after last week's victory by President Roh Tae Woo's Democratic Liberal party in local elections, but executive-level party members voted to ask him to stay. (Reuters)

Gulf victor tells all for \$5m

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN NEW YORK

AFTER some frenetic bidding, General Norman Schwarzkopf has sold the world rights of his planned autobiography to Bantam Books for more than \$5 million (£3 million). The general and a ghost writer yet to be chosen are to start work after his retirement in late August, with the aim of publishing the book by next autumn.

No figures were released by Bantam, which is part of Bantam Doubleday Dell, owned by Bertelsmann AG, the German media giant. However, Random House, one of the runners-up in the auction, said its unsuccessful bid had been for \$5 million.

The general's advance is one of the highest ever paid. The previous record, \$6 mil-

lion, was reportedly paid by Simon and Schuster to Ronald Reagan for two books. Random House recently bought Marlon Brando's memoirs for an undisclosed large sum, according to *The New York Times*.

The poor sales of Mr Reagan's memoirs have highlighted the risks being taken by American publishers. The haste to have the general's book within a year reflects nervousness over the shelf-life of America's newest hero. There are already signs that the country's love affair with Stormin' Norman is waning, thanks to his ubiquity on television. He is even being imitated by comedians in television commercials.

The general said he "very

much looks forward to the opportunity to tell the inside story of Operation Desert Shield/Storm as I lived it and to reflect on the emotions, the people and the events which led to our victory".

A batch of books on the Gulf has appeared and none is doing particularly well. The publishers said the general's book would be a broad account of his life and times and would "reflect the author's extraordinary persona: straight-talking, uniquely informed and definitively authoritative". Readers would come from all sectors, they said, from "Main Street to Wall Street". It would offer insights to the "Schwarzkopf school of management".

Profit in China's babies

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

ENTREPRENEURS in China are buying ultrasound scanning equipment and offering, for a price, to let mothers-to-be know whether they are carrying the boy they always wanted or the girl they dread and will abort.

The revelation is reported in the national *Peking Daily* newspaper, which gave a warning that, if private scanning were allowed to continue, it would lead to an even greater discrepancy in the ratio of men to women. Officially, doctors in China are banned from telling parents the results of a scan because of the inevitable demands to abort girl

foetuses. But where there is a will and a profit to be made, there is a way. In several cities entrepreneurs are paying about £800 to buy their own ultra-sound scanner so that they can go into business selling scans at about £5 a time. There are plenty of private abortion clinics only too happy to ask no questions.

Most countries have a natural ratio of about 105 boys aged one year and under to 100 girls. Statistics emerging last month from the 1990 census showed that in China that ratio is 111.3 boys for 100 girls. Assuming that the ratio at birth is the same in China as elsewhere, then research-

ers have deduced that roughly 600,000 girls vanish each year.

There are a range of possible explanations. Chinese officials insist that female infanticide hardly exists. The introduction of a one-child-only policy in a country where every couple longs for a boy, however, has inevitably increased the pressure on parents to pretend the birth of a girl never happened.

A large number of girls are probably abandoned and end up in orphanages or are adopted by a childless couple. There is evidence that many girls are brought up in secret, their births never registered.

Discreet American seeks partner, view marriage

When Ben de Lisi wanted to match his talents as a designer to a suitable business, he advertised. Now a marriage has been announced. Liz Smith reports on a man who knows what British women want to wear

Designer name seeks partner. Not the usual notice you might find in a tabloid's window or the personal columns. But results expected from this recent entry in the fashion industry's dating service were much the same. A caring businessman is sought, "keen to involve himself closely in the development of a designer name". He must, needless to say, have the necessary cash.

The Wanted or For Sale column of the British Clothing Industry Association's monthly newsletter, which offers designer talent alongside second-hand industrial machines and computers, has just produced one of British fashion's more promising unions. Ben de Lisi, the 36-year-old American-born designer who is blessed with plenty of transatlantic charm and chutzpah — as well as enough design talent to be nominated for a British Fashion Council award last season — was in the market for financial backing to carry on in business, selling the sort of low-key evening clothes with which he has established his name — simple crepe strappy slips and shift dresses this summer, many lavishly trimmed with pearls.

The ad, a page and a half long, was the longest entry that had ever appeared in the BCIA newsletter's box-numbered dating service column, says John Wilson, the BCIA chairman. It pulled in eight suitors: "Unlike the usual brief announcements, Ben typically put his heart into it," Mr Wilson says. A happy partnership between Mr de Lisi and the Jacques Vert group, one of British fashion's most successful clothing manufacturers, has just been announced, in time for the latest Ben de Lisi line for autumn, backed by the new partnership, to be shown from July 1.

Alan Green and Jack Cynamon of Jacques Vert (the label of their sportier line is Alain Cannelle — canelle is French for cinnamon) dismiss doubts about launching into the designer market in a recession. They say their own partnership, established in 1972 to manufacture inexpensive skirts and trousers, took off in the last recession in 1979 when they moved upmarket. "We are not



Selling himself: Ben de Lisi



Fuchsia shift with black trim



"Good manners": fuchsia and white dress with drape-front jacket



"I know women don't want to be overdressed": white crepe baby doll dress with pearl beading

being entirely altruistic in backing Ben," Mr Green says. "We were intrigued by his ad and impressed by his customer list. We like him. We like what he designs. In the short term there is nothing in it for us. He is his own master and must develop his business in his own way. If he is as successful as we believe he will be, there will be a spin-off for Jacques Vert."

Mr de Lisi, who has just come back to London with 400 ideas sketched during a week's holiday on Capri, is an intelligent designer whose background in retailing has stood him in good stead. After

graduating from the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn he worked briefly at Bloomingdale's, where he designed a collection for children, before setting up his own Benedetto menswear line in New York.

He has always designed what he knows will sell. "Designing is not about being poetic or fulfilling some fantasy of my own," he says. "I know women don't want to be overdressed. They like my simple satin-back dresses. But I give them lots of different shifts with detailing that looks good on the rack."

He arrived in London from New York in 1982 to help his

friend, Jean Louis Journe, open his restaurant, Ciboure, in Belgrave. The first Ben de Lisi London collection of pyjama trousers, handkerchief point tops and coats-dresses all in navy, black or white Swiss cotton voile, was cut out in the restaurant in between laying the tables, and sewn in an upstairs room. Subsequent collections such as a Great Gatsby group in chocolate, navy and white matt viscose jersey, a clutch of bright teddy-bear coats to wear over flowery chiffon slips, and fringed and embroidered red and black tailored suits, all sold well. Two

years ago, however, he really hit his signature style when he included five satin-back crepe shift dresses in melon, black and white that sold out immediately. "That was the signpost for me," he says. "Hey Ben, I said, get into discreet evening wear." Ben de Lisi now creates the "good manners" clothes that he knows British women want. Sexy, but discreet. Prices range from £158 for the diagonal banded dress pictured here and £225 for a plain jacket to £296 for a sequinned top and £368 for a beaded slip dress.

Mr de Lisi's assistant, Maryann

Pradl, is based in New York, keeping him up-to-date with trends over there. He has given up designing day clothes. For the moment, he knows his customers look for them elsewhere.

Jacques Vert can provide Mr de Lisi with the solid back-up of a £41.7 million public company. It has three factories and 25 shops in the UK, as well as the infrastructure to enable him to invest in cloth, manufacture his collections, invoice and distribute them.

Mr de Lisi feels removed from the "fairy airhead" image he believes many British designers cul-

tivate. "I am hard-nosed about business," he says. "I did not appear at the meetings with would-be partners in bucks with no socks." Indeed Mr de Lisi, in navy Romeo Gigli suit, believes his collection is a product to be marketed like any other. "I want to be commercial. I want you to walk into Boots one day and find that you can buy Ben de Lisi sunglasses," he says.

Ben de Lisi clothes sell in his shop at 8 Silver Place, W1 as well as Harrods, Harvey Nichols, Liberty and House of Fraser stores. A La Mode and Joseph in London, and the Whistles chain.

A new book applauds one of Italy's most enduring designers

Magistretti magic

Designers come and go, but Vico Magistretti — 70 years old and still productive — has demonstrated a staying power unusual in the rarefied world of domestic design.

Signor Magistretti has been at the forefront of Italian creativity through four vital decades. In Britain he is still best known for that enduring icon of the Sixties, the Carimate chair, the chunky, shiny red update of a farmhouse side-chair with a raffia seat, but a new book displays a superb array of his products. Here are the chairs and side-tables one might expect, but also lighting, and some simple and effective forays into an area seldom touched by fashionable designers — bookcases and storage. Of 120 Magistretti designs from the Fifties to date, more than 80 remain in production, and 12 have a permanent place in the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

Signor Magistretti was born in Milan in 1920, the son of an architect. In 1945 he, too, qualified in architecture, but a year later, together with contemporaries such as Zan-

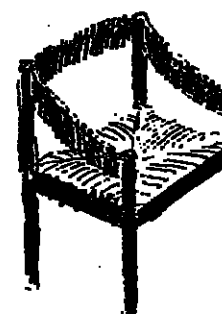
uso and Castiglioni, he began designing purpose-built and one-off pieces of furniture. He did not seriously consider becoming a designer of mass-produced furniture until he was approached in 1960 by Cesare Cassina, the head of the Milan-based furniture company, who was impressed by the red, rush-seated chair that Signor Magistretti had designed for the Carimate golf club in Italy (hence the name of the chair).

Cassina produced the chair and sold it worldwide, although piracy prevented Signor Magistretti from making a fortune from it. Many of his designs are seductively simple and easily reproduced. Particularly susceptible are the Nuvola Rossa folding bookcase of 1977, and Signor Magistretti's favourite piece, the Sinbad chair — a thick horse blanket bound in a contrasting colour, thrown loosely over a black wooden frame. The original did not sell well, but copies flooded the market.

Signor Magistretti remains philosophical, still designing, eschewing garish blips of fashion such as the Memphis

movement of the Eighties or post-modernism ("futuristic is a word I loathe"). He is appreciated best by those to whom the word "designer" is anathema. "I want," he says, "to design things that don't look strange."

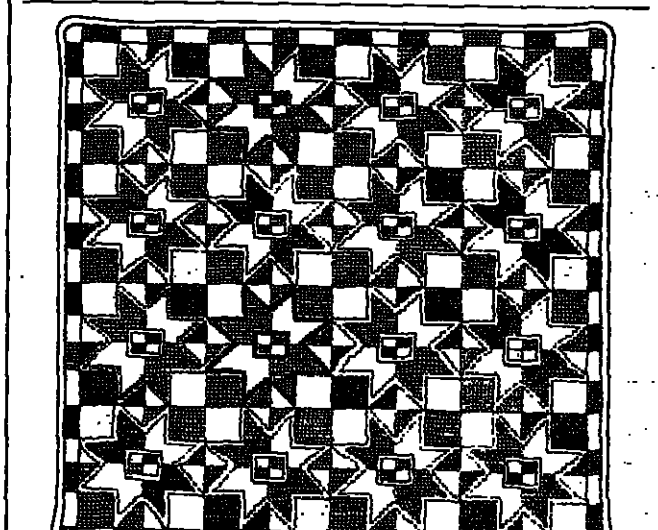
JOSEPH CONNOLLY
Vico Magistretti: Elegance and Innovation in Post-War Italian Design, by Vanni Pasca, is published on July 1 by Thames & Hudson (£22.50)



The Carimate chair

A PASTEL COLOURED SUMMER TAPESTRY BY

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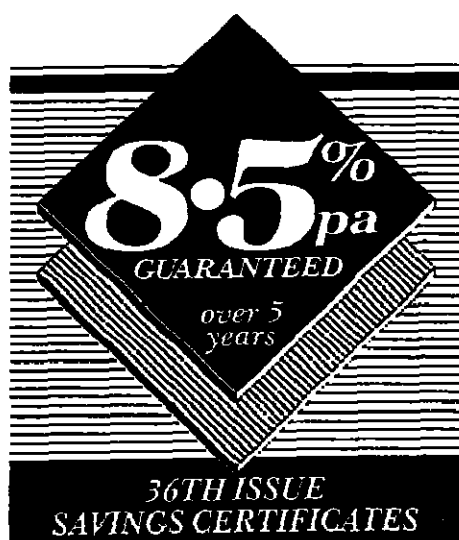
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GALLERIES: DUBLIN

Fair effort in a fair city

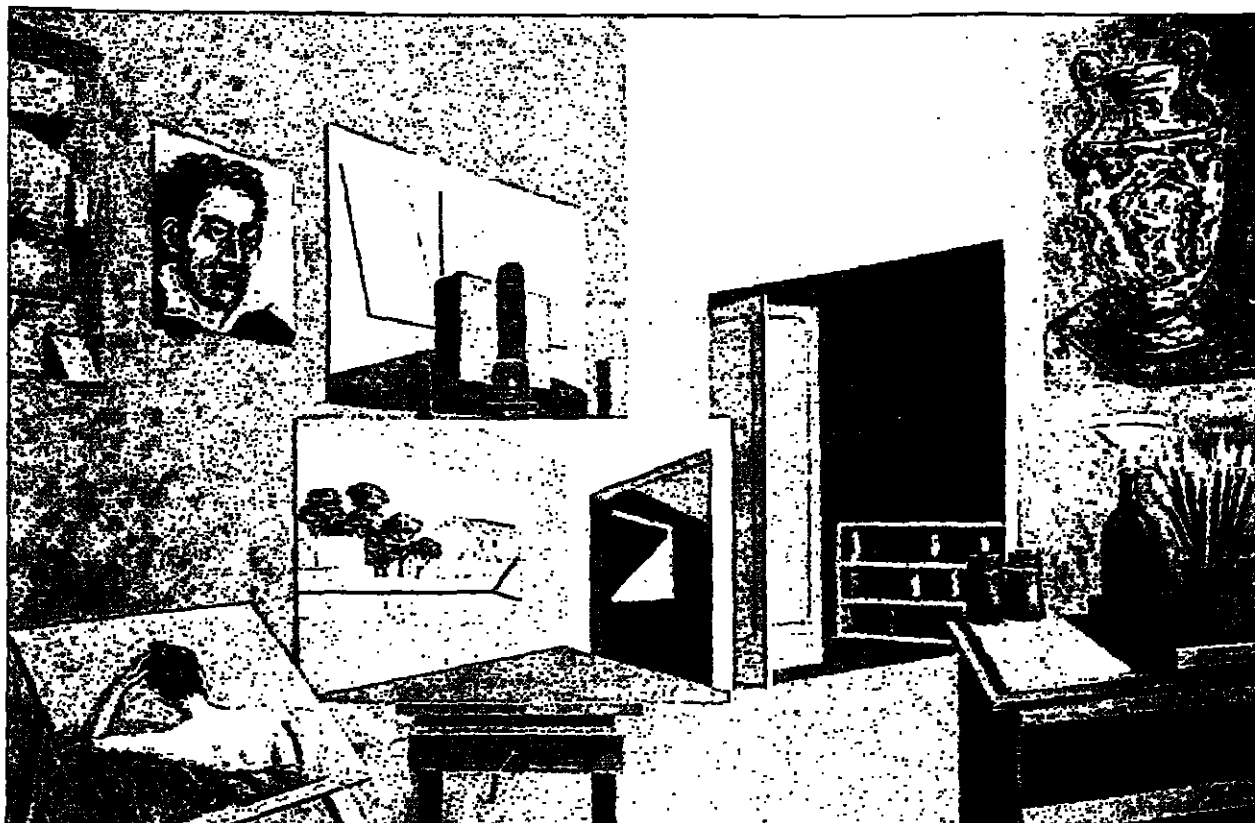
A museum of modern art, Dublin's most substantial gain from its year as Europe's City of Culture, is assessed by John Russell Taylor

For its year as Europe's City of Culture, Dublin has had a hard act to follow. Berlin and Amsterdam could do as much or as little as they liked, and it would have little impact in the British Isles. But Glasgow, last year's "capital of culture", is uncomfortably close, and those to assume an ambitiously high profile in its year. Now, admittedly, Glaswegians are beginning to count the cost, weigh it against the tangible advantages, but before the cheering had to stop, the Glasgow festivities made a fine show.

Nobody supposes that Dublin, though a capital in its own right, has anything like as much money to spend on making a cultural splash. No doubt it is the relative modesty of its efforts that prevents one from hearing all over Dublin, as one did last year all over Glasgow, complaints about city prodigality and anguished questions of how the requisite funds are to be extracted from local pockets. And at least there is already one culture-year enterprise which will be a permanent addition to the city's pleasures: the brand new Irish Museum of Modern Art.

The need for such a place in Dublin has been exhaustively discussed for at least 20 years. During that time the inevitable problems, became increasingly difficult to solve: not only where it should be, but, ultimately more important, what it should contain and how, with rocketing prices for modern masters, even a half-decent collection could be afforded. It was the Year of Culture, more than anything else, that spurred the authorities' action.

At least there was the right building available - the 17th-century Royal Hospital at Kildare, about a mile from the centre of Dublin - and there was the man to make it all happen: Declan McGonagle, a former director of the prize-winning Orchard



Roman Studio 1990 by Stephen McKenna, one of the few Irish contemporary artists represented at the museum

Gallery in Londonderry and exhibitions director of the ICA in London.

The building was lavishly restored by the Irish Government five years ago, since when its ultimate destiny remained uncertain. Work to transform it into a museum of modern art began only last October. It has been sensitively and unobtrusively done, with radical structural alterations only in the vicinity of the entrance. Otherwise, very suitably for most modern art, the interior has been painted white and left to speak for itself. And, of course, left to let the art speak for itself. But here we perhaps move into the area of "wonderful, considering the obstacles".

McGonagle has clearly searched resourcefully for suitable material. He has managed to persuade a few artists to lend examples of their work, drawn on a few private collections, and borrowed some modern classics from the Van Abbe Museum, in Eindhoven, the Gemeentemuseum in the Hague, and the Klaus Lafrenz Collection in Hamburg. Thank goodness for this admirable instance of European co-operation in

practice, for without examples of Picasso, Mondrian, Braque, Miró and Dubuffet (not to mention the lesser-known, Gustave de Smet) from Holland, and Sol LeWitt, Elsworth Kelly, Richard Serra and others from Germany, the galleries would be empty indeed. Even as they are, the hang is sparse. Sometimes the works benefit from the space; at other times the deliberately minimal looks too minimal for comfort if left alone in an

'An admirable instance of European co-operation'

otherwise empty room. It is disappointing, too, that there is not more modern Irish art: presumably a representative collection is one of the museum's eventual goals. For the moment the determined visitor can seek out one Paul Henry landscape, one Mainie Jellett abstraction and a couple of Jack Yeats paintings to touch in the background, a wall of Louis Le Brocq for the middle generation, and installations, more or less impressive, by James Coleman, Dorothy Cross, Pauline Cummins, Matt Mullican and

some other contemporaries. But no doubt in a year or two the energetic and enterprising McGonagle will have pulled together a collection which will match its spectacular lodgings. And already things are looking up: today the museum is unveiling the vellum Great Book of Ireland, which is a project upon which 140 poets, 120 artists and eight composers have been working for the past two years, in conscious tribute to the great illuminated manuscripts of the Celts. The Celts, indeed, are much in evidence this year, since Europe-wide it is the Year of the Celt. While the major exhibition on this theme is in Venice, Fiat (which finances the Palazzo Grassi there) last weekend thoughtfully brought the associated scholarly conference to Dublin.

The new museum may be the Culture Year's flagship, but it is by no means all that is going on. The National Gallery has recently completed its renovation of the main Old Master galleries. Now comes an important retrospective of the Dublin artist and friend of Yeats, Nathaniel Hone the Younger. This is the first one-man show for more than 70

years, during which Hone has been languishing relatively unregarded. During his long life (1831-1917) he ran through a gamut of styles ranging from pre-Barbizon to Post-Impressionist, and managed all of them with skill and grace. Perhaps a simple *embarras de richesse* has obscured his worth: the National Gallery alone owns more than 800 oils and more than 1,200 watercolours by him. Obviously his long periods in France, close to the Barbizon painters and their Impressionist successors, contributed much to his refined landscape style. This, in its turn, influenced the younger generation of stay-at-home Irishmen. That Irish art in the 20th century remains distinct from English owes much to Hone's achievement.

Opening Exhibition/The Great Book of Ireland, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Royal Hospital, Kildare, Dublin (010 3531 718666). Tues to Sun 10am-5.30pm. Admission free. Nathaniel Hone the Younger, National Gallery of Ireland, Merrion Square West, Dublin 2 (010 3531 615133). Mon to Sat 10am-6pm (Thurs to 9pm), Sun 2-5pm, until August 4. Admission free, but this exhibition £2 (£1 concessions).

ILLUSTRATION

First-timer who found his happiest medium

Gary Blythe, winner of the 1991 Kate Greenaway Medal for children's book illustration, talks to Simon Tait

The taxi driver had to stop twice to ask the way to the street in the Liverpool suburb of Wallasey where Gary Blythe lives and works. "We don't often come down here," he revealed. And Blythe would like to keep his street that way: difficult for reporters to find. "There is nothing interesting about me, I'm just a painter," he says. "But the book's interesting, isn't it?"

His haunting illustrations for Dyan Sheldon's *The Whales' Song* have today won him this year's Kate Greenaway Medal, the oldest award for children's book illustration. Previous winners include Edward Ardizzone, Raymond Briggs and Quentin Blake. Although the Greenaway Medal, sponsored by Peters Library Service, carries no prize money, it has the cachet of being a serious prize from the Library Association rather than an inebriating hug from the publishing industry.

The story of *The Whales' Song* is a fashionably Green fantasy, all of 390 words long, about a little girl whose grandmother's stories of singing whales lead her to befriend them herself. Blythe's 12 oil-painting illustrations all have references to his own surroundings. The grandmother is based on a neighbour of his parents, the curmudgeonly uncle is his father, the girl herself is basically his wife, Lin. He found the model for her eyes in a magazine.

Hutchinson published *The Whales' Song* last October with an ambitious 10,000 print-run. But already it has sold more than 20,000 in three editions in this country, with 40,000 ordered for the American market and negotiations in progress with a French book club for 70,000 of the paper-

back version. In short, it is a runaway bestseller.

Yet one odd thing is that Blythe has never met the author, Sheldon, even though they are now working on a new book. Even odder is the fact that he has never seen a whale. His only reference was a Heathcote Williams book. Blythe continues to work as an illustrator for paperback covers. He was "discovered" by Hutchinson's children's editor Caroline Roberts, to whom the story had been submitted in 1988. "When I read it I had a vision of the illustrations - it was all to do with the use of light - but I couldn't think of an artist who could match it," Roberts said. "I hung on to the story for almost a year while I looked for an artist."

He visited the Arrow Books art department, part of the same Random-Century empire at Hutchinson's, and saw Blythe's eerie painting for the adult book *The Goose Boy*. "This had precisely the quality of light and sensitivity that this story required." According to Blythe, "there was no plan, no instructions. I was asked to do one painting to see what I made of the story. On the strength of that they asked me to do the rest."

The first eight spreads were shown at the Bologna Book Fair last spring. "Several

people had tears in their eyes," Roberts said, and Dial, the American publishers, won a rights auction with a £40,000 down payment, £1 a copy.

For Blythe, the rise to fame has been startling. When he first came to London - ten years ago, fresh from Liverpool Polytechnic with his art degree - he was unemployed for two years. A melancholy portrait of Lin by the Regent's Canal, near one of the six or seven flats they lived in during that time, got him taken on by Artist Partners. As soon as he could, he moved out of London, to Havant, but could not afford the rent there, so went reluctantly home to Liverpool two years ago.

Artist Partners found him book-cover commissions and he built a reputation with his alarming visions for gothic horror stories. He has "grown out" of them, into less bizarre images, and has completed about 150 covers. Three more are currently on the easel in the front bedroom which has become a studio in his Victorian terraced house.

He has no children and never read children's books as a child. But at the rather late age of 32 he has become a convert to the genre, with book ideas of his own bubbling. When he heard he had won the Greenaway he allowed himself the luxury of buying two canvases: his dream is to spend nine months a year on children's books, and three months painting for himself. Children's illustration represents for him a bridge from the strictures of book covers to the freedom of his own painting. "Children's books are a wonderfully happy medium for me."



Precisely the quality of light and sensitivity required by the story: a Gary Blythe illustration from *The Whales' Song*, by Dyan Sheldon, published by Hutchinson

CLASSICAL MUSIC: SPITALFIELDS FESTIVAL

Dream-time beneath the spire

The pilgrimage to Christ Church, Spitalfields at festival time is always worthwhile. For one thing, it provides a chance to check on the gradual restoration of Nicholas Hawksmoor's great building. For another, the music is always off the beaten track. Even Mozart was commemorated this year with something different: ... in *Mozart's Eye*, a concoction of dance, aria and speech by Stephen Preston.

A year-round education and community programme with local schools is now an inte-

grated part of the festival's work, and a contingent of children attended the Eady-mien Ensemble's early evening performance of Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale*. In an economical staging, Kfir Yefet's direction and Jonathan Lunn's choreography turned mine into vivid reality. Frances de la Tour narrated ardently; Lunn, as the Soldier, danced and recited admirably well; Nella Marin (the Devil) experienced occasional problems of audibility. Peter Ash conducted a crisp performance; the music may

sound incidental within the context of a staged performance, but it is no less brilliantly conceived for that. The five singers of the Hilliard Ensemble focused their intimate skills on two recent pieces by Gavin Bryars. His *Incipit Vita nova* (1989), for counter-tenor (David James) and string trio (the Chameleon Ensemble), touchingly sets a text from Dante's *La Vita Nuova*. Hints there may be of casual minimalist clichés here, but Nyman's achievement is to speak of substantial, spiritual things. That is even truer of the other work, *Cadman Requiem* (also from 1989), scored for four voices with the same instruments, and written in memory of Bill Cadman, a friend of Nyman's killed in the Lockerbie disaster. This is a world not far distant from that of John Tavener's *The Protecting Veil* (heard earlier in the festival), or Arvo Pärt's music. Like those two composers, Bryars gauges his music's progress so that simple melodies or harmonic changes become highly charged with emotion. However, the prevailing sparseness and quietness is countered by touches of Verdian passion and of Faust-like sweetness.

The remainder of the programme consisted of organum, conductus and monody from the 12th and early 13th centuries. It reached its glorious climax with Pärt's *Viderunt omnes*, a complex and exhilarating intertwining of three voices. Two nights earlier, Jane Manning and Jane's Minstrels scaled lower spiritual heights, although Matthew

King's Seven Harvest Songs, for soprano, clarinet (Dov Goldberg) and horn (Roger Montgomery), with its nicely varied settings of Gerard Manley Hopkins, the Bible and words by King himself, sets out its stall positively in Green territory.

A Spitalfields commission receiving its first performance, Diana Burrell's *Barrow* reflects her own mystic dream about drums sounding from within an ancient grave, which then gives birth to a child.

Scored for a suitably low-pitched quintet of piano, bassoon, horn, cello and electric guitar (the last two players doubling on drums), the piece displays Burrell's characteristically determined counterpoint and textures with the uncompromising flavour of Bartók.

Yet, for all the charms of Anthony Payne's *Aspects of Love and Contentment* - arrangements of soupy songs by Peter Warlock - and despite Bryn Lewis's elegant harp playing in Ravel's Introduction and Allegro, the most effective work in this concert was Judith Weir's *Don't Let That Horse*, a terse and witty setting of a verse by Lawrence Ferlinghetti which, to quote the programme note, "concerns Chagall, his mother, and some nudes". Manning delivered it with the sauciness only she can summon.

STEPHEN PETTITT

REVIEWS
Opera, Radio and Music
PAGE 18

The Ninagawa Company
TANGO
AT THE END OF WINTER
by Kunio Shimizu
adapted by Peter Barnes
directed by Yukio Ninagawa
Set Design Setsu Asakura
Costume Design Lily Komine
Lighting Design Sumio Yoshii
Sound Design Akira Honma
Sylvia Allen, Timothy Bateson, Peter Bayliss, Bruce Bennett, Suzanne Berish, Jonathan Butterell, Anne Marie Cavanah, Mandi Cheshire, Richard Clothier, Paul Crosby, Beatie Edney, Diana Fairfax, Sheila Shand Gibbs, Robert Glenister, Rupert Mason, Philip Pellow, Stuart Pendered, Simon Poonan, Alan Rickman, Barry Stanton, Jerome Turner, Jason Webb, Peter Whitbread.

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Conor Cruise O'Brien

Why do some nations still see themselves as the chosen people?

Every Christian nation has at some time believed and propagated the idea that it has been especially chosen by God. Last week I spent some time among such "chosen peoples" discussing the subject. The occasion was an international conference on Religion and Nationalism in Washington DC, under the joint auspices of the Harvard Divinity School and the German Historical Institute.

At first, Christians in general considered themselves successors to the Jews as a chosen people, but it soon appeared that some Christians were more chosen than others. As early as the 7th century, a Frankish text refers to Jesus Christ as having "loved the Franks". By the 15th century, Joan of Arc could say: "He who makes war on the Holy Kingdom of France makes war on Jesus Christ."

By the 17th century, the notion was strongest among the English Puritans, who applied it both to themselves and to the English collectively. They carried the idea with them to the New World, where it has flourished mightily.

Apart from the French and the English, the nations most powerfully affected by the notion were Russia and Germany. Holy Russia became, in effect, the official doctrine of church and state. The German case was more complicated. On the eve of the Reformation, Germans believed that before the Tower of Babel everyone had spoken German. Many Germans were therefore conditioned to receive Luther's Bible as the Word of God in God's own language.

But after the religious wars had ended in stalemate, with Germany almost evenly divided between Catholics and Protestants, the idea of God having chosen the Germans collectively was no longer plausible. After 1870-71, it became clear that God had chosen to unite Germany under Prussian leadership, a theme that resounded from Protestant pulpits in the late 19th century and early 20th centuries.

What happened then to the notion of the Germans as the people chosen by God? This interesting question was handled somewhat gingerly by the German scholars who addressed the conference. One referred to "the secularisation of nationalism". Another offered what seemed the more promising concept of "the transformation of a myth".

I wanted to know more about the nature of the transformation. Was it a case of nationalism moving from a theological to a biological basis? As theology lost credibility and prestige and "biological science" flourished, did the Germans become the genetically chosen ones of nature, where formerly they had been the spiritually chosen people of God? Was this not just a new and far more dangerous — because more convincing — way of promulgating the same arrogant and irrational ideas? No answers were forthcoming.

Participants in the conference divided between those for whom the idea of a chosen people still has contemporary relevance and those for whom it is a rather quaint historical phenomenon. Most of those in the first category were from outside Europe: Americans, both white and black, Israelis, Afrikaners. Most of the participants from post-Christian Europe fell into the second category, with only the Germans showing an emotional sensitivity in this area.

One could tell that the notion of the Germans as a chosen people is still active in certain minds — not of course the minds of anyone attending this or similar conferences, but of those at other get-togethers. On the day the conference ended, a headline in *The Washington Post* ran: "2,000 Neo-Nazis march in Dresden".

Nicholas Ridley has doubts about the latest portrait of Mrs Thatcher as a loser and a bossy has-been

Inside the mind of Major



Tearful farewell: Mrs Thatcher leaves 10 Downing Street

He lives in a world of gossip, media hype and PR. He does not seem to realise that there is a serious side to politics.

One of his heroes is Tristan Garel-Jones, whose skills as a Tory whip are renowned. Mr Anderson finds him not guilty of conspiracy in Mrs Thatcher's downfall, although the prominent role ascribed to Mr Garel-Jones in the events of November 1990 can hardly be helpful to

him. Mr Major, too, is exonerated of any blame in these events, and in my view these conclusions are both correct.

But Mr Anderson's view of politics is very depressing. He seems to believe it is a world dominated by whips, power struggles and presentation. I hope, and believe, that he is wrong. I am sure Mr Major would not share his dim view of politics. Mr Anderson does not

pay sufficient tribute to Margaret Thatcher's role in helping Mr Major, nor to what she did for this country; nor does he fully acknowledge what her party did to her. He clearly is not given to suffering from excessive emotion over these traumatic events.

The three parts of his book fit ill together. Chronologically, the last part should come first, but frankly it is not very interesting. It goes into laborious detail about an ordinary South London family who fell on hard times. The school days of the third child, John, are described at great length. The book is a paean to all concerned. Did none of them ever do anything wrong, one wonders? One hundred pages is too much to devote to such unremitting virtue. I fear. No wonder Mr Anderson relegated this part to the end.

This is not a criticism Mr Major. He emerges as a charming, hardworking, dedicated and honourable young man, despite his difficult, impoverished and unexciting childhood. That he

did not do very well in his O levels, with this background, is not surprising: to me it is delightful that he did so very well at everything else so early in life. This confirms my view that people are carried forward not by birth, money, schooling or qualifications, but by effort and will power. Those who foolishly try to make political capital out of Mr Major's lack of formal qualifications should be the first to salute his later successes.

Mr Anderson has some good punchy phrases and a readable style: by all means read the book if you want to know exactly what happened at Mr Major's family lunch on November 19, 1990, at the Catherine Place gathering on November 20 or in the cabinet on November 22. But do not expect a revealing insight into the phenomenon of Thatcherism and why and how it came to an end. Mr Anderson draws the conclusion that Mrs Thatcher was by then a bossy old has-been who could never have won another election, and that John Major could never lose one. But I suggest it is too early to make such a judgment.

John Major: The Making of the Prime Minister is published this week by Fourth Estate at £16.99.

Proud city down in the dumps

Can rubbish-strewn Liverpool clean up its act, asks Michael Parkinson as refuse men prepare to vote today

In 1880 Liverpool had more millionaires than any provincial city in Britain. By 1984, the European Commission calculated it was one of the poorest cities in western Europe as measured by population, loss, job losses and unemployment levels. Only cities in southern Italy fared worse.

After the drastic decline of Liverpool's port, good times seemed to be on the way again in the 1960s, when 25,000 jobs were created in Ford and Vauxhall car works. But the recession of the 1970s destroyed its branch plant economy.

This second disappointment led to a degree of cynicism entering the public life of the city. The politics of frustration was created. That frustration spawned Militant, which filled the vacuum left by the Liberals and the right of the Labour party. The final straw was the rise of Thatcherism in the 1980s, which guaranteed confrontation between left and right.

The city council has been the focus of all Liverpool's conflict because of its role as employer. With the loss of vital private sector jobs, council employment increasingly became seen as a form of outdoor relief, rather than as the means to provide services to the ratepayers. Although Liverpool's population has declined by 10,000 a year for the past 40 years (it is now 450,000), the city has a council workforce appropriate to a much larger population.

Despite the undeniable evidence of decline, the city is stuck with a post-imperial delusion of economic greatness, and suffers from a grossly exaggerated sense of its own political importance. Not only has it failed to change with circumstances in simple everyday ways — such as merging and closing schools with falling

rolls — it really thought it could bring down the Thatcher government by confrontation in the 1980s. And this year it thought it could deflect Neil Kinnock from his ambitions to reform the Labour party.

Responsibility for the council's long-term financial problems must be shared. The Militant regime of the mid-1980s — before it was discredited — reeled with some justification against the creative accounting of the Liberal and coalition governments of the 1970s, which tried to hold down the rates but never balanced the books by reducing the council workforce. But Militant worsened the account. Huge loans taken out during 1980s for housing are now due for repayment.

The leadership that succeeded in 1987 promised change but its nerve failed. Finally, the poll tax, the exhaustion of creative accounting and compulsory competitive tendering meant the council had at last to grasp the nettle and begin sacking council employees. Hence the conflict with the bin men, and the piles of rotting garbage.

The financial options were terribly restricted, but it still took nerve on the part of the ruling Labour group to face up to the need to add to the 30,000 unemployed in the city. However painful it is, politicians must govern — not simply follow or be intimidated. Liverpool's Liberal Democrats too should recognise this and put the city's interests before short-term political gains. At present they are consistently failing to ally themselves with the Labour group, sometimes voting with the hard left. And whatever the hard left may claim, its larger strategy can only lead the city down a financial and political cul-de-sac. Socialism is a fantasy if you can't empty the bins. And to do that managers must be



Liverpool's dustmen go back, but how long until Wavertree playground is cleared?

allowed to manage. The lack of administrative leadership during the last 15 years has been almost as decisive as the city's political failings. At least this has now been recognised by politicians and officers in the city.

Many old industrial and port sites in Europe have been through the trauma of serious economic decline yet managed to revive their fortunes. Ham-

burg, Rotterdam, Dortmund and Barcelona are all based on declining industries such as steel, coal, and shipbuilding, and experienced unemployment rates of up to 25 per cent — as bad as Liverpool's. But all four have been transformed. They have modernised their economic bases by moving away from heavy industry and attracting knowledge-based, high-tech industries in-

stead. They have formed coalitions with local businesses and universities to invest in their human capital, clean up their environments and look forward. What are the chances of Liverpool achieving such a transformation? Unfortunately its location is more peripheral than the four cities mentioned, its politics is unremittingly inward looking, its workforce is

underqualified and its service industries are less well developed. But there is potential. The waterfront, the city centre, the science and business parks, and the culture, tourism and leisure industries have taken modest but real steps in the past five years.

Two possible large developments are exciting: British Aerospace is exploring whether it can develop the airport as a European hub-and-spoke operation to rival Manchester, and there are plans for a barrage across the Mersey which would generate electricity. The airport project would provide 5,000 construction jobs immediately. The barrage could create an upstream lake for tourist development, as well as selling electricity.

Strategy, vision, partnership seem empty words in Liverpool today. Words will not be enough, but they give a clue to what is needed. There are signs of hope. The city council is not the only representative of the city. Other public and private leaders are struggling to forge a partnership.

Should anybody but those of us who live and work here care what happens? Of course. This is an endlessly interesting city with architecture, culture, history, a river, argument and people — life — that stuns even its critics when they come and see it. Whatever its failings, Liverpool remains a test case of national policy for our cities. It cannot be left to twist in the wind. If local politicians must exercise responsibility, the obligation upon national government is equally compelling. Economic regeneration is long and expensive, and Liverpool does not have the money. The government, whatever it may say, has taken more from the city council's programmes since 1979 than it has put back through special initiatives. If Liverpool rises to Mr Heseltine's city challenge will he rise to ours? If the bin men clean up the city, can we start with a clean sheet?

The author is director of the Centre for Urban Studies at Liverpool University.

...and moreover

PETER BARNARD

A number of people, one is a number, have been asking me about the seeds at Wimbledon. Mystifying, aren't they? These people, this person, knows I am the one to ask about the seeds at Wimbledon because of late I have been spotted on a number of occasions, two is a number, studying lists of seeds in order to learn their strengths and weaknesses, their principal characteristics, their ability on clay vis-à-vis their ability on grass, their susceptibility to wilting in the heat or failing in all directions and climbing up the wall, to the point where they have to be culled and banished.

Some people do this every year at this time. Fair drives their spouses mad, I am told. There are even people who ruminate over French, German and Italian seeds in an attempt to extrapolate their behaviour in such a way as to assess their chances of blooming at Wimbledon. This is an extreme form of the seeding obsession, but even Euro-seeding sceptics admit that when it comes to seeding, you have to keep up.

Look at a list of the top seeds for last year and compare it with this year's: there are ones that have shot from nowhere into the top eight and others that have shot from the top eight into nowhere. Call it fashion, call it performance: seeding is not an art that is kind to those who neglect their research.

The trouble with the seeding enquiries which come my way is that when it comes to Wimbledon I am not too sure of my ground. I am unable to be

definitive about these seeds. I realise that Wimbledon seeds is a misnomer, since most of them have been imported, but we are talking habitat here and the truth of it is that I have never had a Wimbledon habitat of any description.

Much less one with a garden. Wiltshire seeds, albeit they seem not to get the same press attention, are an entirely different matter. Wiltshire is where we are buying a house with a garden, in fact we may have bought it by now, it is hard to tell with so many documents arriving by every post: is this an offer of mortgage or is it an offer of the holiday of a lifetime for Visa card-holders in good standing or is it the offer of any six paperbackbacks at 10p each, including *War and Peace*, *Kane and Abel* and *The Complete Home Brewer*?

I try to assist people mystified by Wimbledon seeds, but as soon as they mention names I have to start making it up. Although I am ankle deep in comprehensive lists of Wiltshire seeds, in none of them can I find an Agassi or a Graf, nor yet a Becker. Can a Becker be a seed? Sounds more like something that eats seeds. "The becker's got in me beds."

I rang up my mother, who is familiar with seeds going all the way back to Virginia Creeper — one of the great Wimbledon seeds, a champion, by all accounts — but all she said was: "Alkaline Soil." Whoever he is, he is not in the phone book. There was a faint glimmer when I encountered the phrase

"Wimbledon seeding committee" on *The Times* sports pages, of all places. Surely a seeding committee would be the source of all wisdom. Seeding could not be so different as between Wiltshire and Wimbledon that an entire committee would be flummoxed.

I rang them up. For a committee, they showed remarkable concern, if not understanding. No sooner had I explained my difficulty with Wiltshire seeding than the chairman began talking to me in the tones of a Samaritan dispatched to persuade a suicide off a roof. He asked if I was recently bereaved. He asked if I was phoning from an institution. He was quite a nice man, but clearly mad. All he seemed to know about his seeds was that they cost a packet. You would think the chairman of a seeding committee would know the cheapest place to buy seeds.

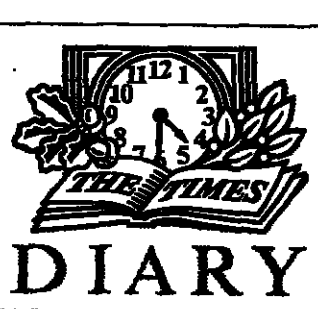
He was not, though, completely useless. He solved one mystery for me, which was surprising because all the time I was talking he seemed to be having an entirely separate, *sotto voce* conversation relating to the Mental Health Act and whether there were two doctors available at short notice. But he must have been listening, because after I explained that the house we are buying has a lawn that is all one shade of green, he said this was slightly out of his area but he thought that Wimbledon-type stripes were achieved by planting some of the seeds upside down. So that's why half the Wimbledon seeds have never grown up.

Disproportionate representation

Britain's irritation with Luxembourg in recent days has been obvious: just what right has this Lilliputian statelet, no bigger than Bristol, to dictate the future of Europe? Luxembourg means little more than a name on a radio dial to many Britons, but in 1839 Britain was one of the Great Powers that guaranteed its independence in the Treaty of London. William I of the Netherlands had just dispersed with the rebellious fiefdom, which had been given to him by the Congress of Vienna in 1815. Before that, Luxembourg had been occupied in turn by the Burgundians, French, Austrians, Prussians and Dutch. During the second world war, it was occupied by Germany, but the Luxembourgers prefer to remain silent about that episode.

Since 1839 the nation has had few, if any, opportunities to sit at the top table, so the obvious enjoyment of its moment of glory is understandable. But Luxembourg is not in the pocket of Jacques Delors, according to Michael Hodges, senior lecturer in international relations at the London School of Economics. "It is true that Luxembourg included the word federal in its draft treaty to keep Delors happy, but it has an independent view. It had a huge row over the moving of the European parliament from Luxembourg to Brussels."

Luxembourg took a gamble in becoming a paid-up member of the European integration club, says Hodges. "It could be swallowed up in a federal Europe if the number of commissioners and seats in parliament were related to the population of member states." Instead it must hope for a senate along the lines of that in Washington, with equal numbers of seats per state no matter their size.



● The Lainsborough House Hotel, due to open early next year on the site of London's old St George's Hospital, is to have a "royal entrance" for the exclusive use of heads of state. The news has not gone down well among London's other top hotels. "Absolute pretension," says one. "All our guests get the red carpet treatment," insists another. Other exclusive royal doors in London include the Sovereign's Entrance in the Palace of Westminster and at Victoria Station. Any others?

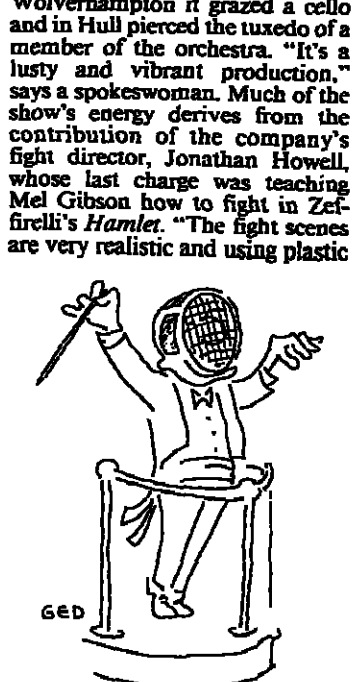
Euro-Regiment No 1

The Ministry of Defence has already started thinking about how to rename its regiments following the "Options for Change" review. The army's own magazine, *Soldier*, reports, tongue-in-cheek, some of the possibilities.

The Life Guards will amalgamate with the Royal Green Jackets and be known as the Life Jacks. The Black Watch and Blues and Royals will join forces to become the Black and Blues, while the Royal Army Educational Corps will raise standards by combining with the Intelligence Corps. The Duke of Wellington's Regiment will be given the boot, and the Parachute Regiment is for the high jump. And the Army Chaplain's department? It hasn't got a prayer, says the ministry's anonymous and unreliable source.

Decapulation?

There is nothing half-hearted about the Northern Ballet Theatre's touring production of Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*. Twice Tybalt's dagger has leapt from his hand during an over-enthusiastic fight scene. In Wolverhampton it grazed a cello and in Hull pierced the tuxedo of a member of the orchestra. "It's a lusty and vibrant production," says a spokeswoman. Much of the show's energy derives from the contribution of the company's fight director, Jonathan Howell, whose last charge was teaching Mel Gibson how to fight in *Zelazny's Hamlet*. "The fight scenes are very realistic and using plastic



or rubber daggers would destroy that quality," says Northern Ballet. The orchestra is less impressed and the company has been forced to cover the pit with protective netting. One reviewer described the production as "a direct hit". The musicians hope not.

Hacks and hams

W hom by Granada Television cast to play John Major in its forthcoming drama about the downfall of Mrs Thatcher? Secrecy surrounds the identity of the actors being audi-

tioned this week for the plum part in the hour-long play *The Final Hours*, to be aired on the anniversary of her departure. "We need someone rather grey to play Major, and funny enough they are very hard to find in the acting profession," says one employed on the programme.

Angela Thorne, who played Mrs Thatcher in the stage drama *Any one for Denis*, has been replaced by Sylvia Sims. Leading characters also being cast this week include Michael Heseltine, Cecil Parkinson, Sir Geoffrey Howe and Sir Bernard Ingham.

Brian Glover, the wrestler turned Shakespearean actor, is tipped to play Ingham, a fellow Yorkshireman, although the subject himself remains unimpressed. "This kind of nonsense will only distort history. I'm surprised they didn't ask Glenda Jackson to play Mrs Thatcher," he says, insisting he will refuse to watch.

However, Eileen Srahlnaver, Michael Heseltine's special advisor thought Charles Dance could easily play her boss. There is talk of Robbie Coltrane playing Sir Peter Morrison, but the silence over who might play the prime minister is overwhelming. However, Terry Major, his lookalike elder brother, has his own suggestion: "I think they should ask Mike Yarwood."

● David Reddaway, our man in Tehran, has suggested to the Iranian foreign ministry that diplomatic relations might be improved if the Iranians were to change the name of the road in Tehran next to the British consulate. It is known as Bobby Sands Street, after the IRA hunger striker who died in 1981. The foreign office line is that a name change is a matter for the Iranians and no formal request has been made, but a change would be welcome. Possible alternatives? How about Brooke Boulevard, in honour of the secretary of state's efforts of recent weeks?

John, initials



THE FEDERAL DEVIL

The trouble lies in the word, and what the word implies. Federal, said Luxembourg's draft treaty on European union, and federal is what it meant. The British government was right to be aggrieved at being taken by surprise, and will be right to resist the word's inclusion in the final text. Those who argue that federal really means "decentralised" are making an enormously important assumption: that a central political entity exists, entitled to delegate to national states powers it would itself otherwise possess. The reality of the union treaty as drafted is that it is not about decentralisation; it is about the surrender of national sovereignty to an entity whose locus hovers uncertainly between the Commission and its staff in Brussels and the extraordinary travelling circus of the European Council of Ministers.

Luxembourg wrote the script for the new treaty, but its pen was guided from Brussels. This explicit federalism is vintage Delors, who has declared himself a "top-downer", determined to achieve "integration from above", and who accepts the principle of "subsidiarity" only in the context of an overriding "pouvoir Européen". British opposition to this straightforward, Napoleonic concept must not be narrow. Public debate should not concentrate on the word federal, which Britain's partners could simply agree to drop. But there should be no mistaking the federal thrust of the treaty as it stands.

The devil is in the detail. British ministers have so far sought to clarify the institutional division of power between the Council, the Commission, and the European parliament, the EC's three main governing institutions. Their aim has been to preserve the policy-making authority of ministers in the Council, seeing this as a guarantee that sovereignty will be pooled only when national governments agree to do so.

The Council can, however, serve as a reliable protection for national sovereignty only where it reaches decisions unanimously, thus giving each state a veto. Majority voting has hitherto been adopted only where it makes practical sense not to let the most insular country block progress towards a goal that manifestly requires universality for its effect, for example in laying down rules for the frontier-free EC of "1992" and in anti-monopoly directives.

The most insidiously federalist aspect of the Luxembourg draft lies in the wide new

vistas it opens to EC policy-making in areas, such as energy, health, labour law or culture, until now the preserve of national governments. For most of these, including foreign policy and defence, the draft calls for majority voting in the Council. As M Delors has shown over the treaty itself, a majority of disparate states can usually be constructed by the secretariat on each issue. Once majority voting becomes the norm, the balance of power will shift decisively from national governments to Brussels.

Nothing better illustrates this than the running argument over the Social Charter, a grand design for regulating workers' pay, conditions and rights in pursuit of which the commission has produced a host of directives. Because the existing Treaty of Rome does not cover labour and social matters, however, the Commission has had to play its hand cautiously. The unanimity rule applies to all directives in its "social action programme" unless they come either under "health and safety" or the 1992 programme, where the consequences of a free market in labour need to be addressed.

Today the Social Affairs Council discusses uniform entitlements to pay and leave for pregnant women and the introduction of an EC-wide maximum working week. Britain maintains this is in the domain of national governments. The Luxembourg draft would enormously enlarge the Commission's competence in labour regulation and workers' rights, and require it to report annually on "the development of the social situation". It would introduce majority voting on most EC labour and social legislation.

This well-meant flattening of the European playing field is intended to give the EC a warm human dimension. It is supranationalism run riot. More voting by majority means a more centralised Europe: federal in just the sense Mr Hurd has defined. Majority voting sounds democratic. But by weakening the Council as a cockpit of rival national interests and strengthening the Commission and its bureaucracy, it is the reverse of democratic. (Nor would any feasible system of parliamentary accountability rectify this defect.) Majority voting is the nub of the federal design. John Major is condemned to fight over just such small print, and yet sell to his electorate a vision, shared with Montesquieu, of Europe as a "nation of nations".

LIBERATING LIBRARIES

The Library Association, which represents librarians, blames the government for cuts in public library services imposed by charge-capped local authorities. Now that the cost of local government is to become more and more centrally determined, the librarians are redirecting their fire from the town halls to Westminster. This is precisely what will happen to every local service under the government's ridiculously centralised new structure of local expenditure.

The elimination of the old private circulating libraries by local councils in the past quarter century was a largely uncontroversial act of "nationalisation". The service duly expanded along with local government in general. A range of subsidiary services competed with books for funds. The emphasis on serious literature, classics and reference works was abandoned once public libraries became monopolies. The acquisition of cheap popular fiction was justified both on egalitarian grounds and to boost attendance and borrowing figures.

About one person in ten uses public libraries (though in remote areas it may be up to 70 per cent), but annual borrowings have stayed at a high level, around 600 million, for 20 years or more. Since authors began to receive royalties on library lending, a clear picture has emerged of what borrowers read. The 100 most-issued adult books include no works of non-fiction; Catherine Cookson, Victoria Holt, Jeffrey Archer and Dick Francis head the list.

The original, mainly educational, purpose of public libraries has thus diminished in priority. They have become popularisers. The casual often noisy ambience of many public libraries is of the literary supermarket rather than the august reading room. Students or autodidacts in search of intellectual stimulus can still find it here, but

with some difficulty. The answer to the present undoubted lack of money is for libraries to operate more freely, which might mean more commercially.

If a library were permitted to make a charge, say for each loan of a work of popular fiction, it would be able to buy more books and offer a wider range of information services, provided the revenue raised was not merely deducted from its budget. Classics and serious contemporary fiction might continue to be free, the choice falling on the chief librarian, who would also be able to exempt students, pensioners and other hardship cases.

Even if the average fee were as little as the price of a popular newspaper (25 pence), the funds raised could transform the finances of most public libraries. Many services, such as video and record collections, could easily be self-financing, or cross-subsidise the educative and reference activities. Librarians would have nothing to fear from this. The public might borrow slightly fewer books. They might even help the bookshops by buying more. But the lesson of modern public services is that expansion can only come from a sensible mix of subsidy, charging and public-private partnership. The existing gulf between local libraries and local bookshops is, for instance, absurd.

Two years ago the then arts minister, Sir Richard Luce, advocated charging for loans of new bestsellers and for some other services. The idea was howled down and buried. Contracting out of non-core services, making possible the targeting of funds to what librarians themselves call "the prime purpose of libraries", has as yet hardly been tried. Nor has charging for popular fiction. If librarians want the support their admirable service deserves, they must be open to new ideas and sources of revenue.

GREY DAYS FOR CRICKET

England has "the weather" while most other countries just have climate. This may be why, in an idle moment between showers, the English invented cricket. Unlike most competitive sports, it is a game with four sides. The opposing teams are one and two, the weather is three and the clock on the pavilion, four. Since the last two conspire, they often win. To advertise the supremacy of the elements over bat and ball, a weather-vane in the form of Father Time presides triumphantly over the headquarters of English cricket, at Lord's cricket ground.

No doubt Father Time was smiling in the rain yesterday at his latest victory over the England and West Indies players. The point has surely come to impose some constraint on the havoc thus wrought in this light-sensitive sport. Are rain and bad light stopping play too often? The ponderous ritual of "offering the batsmen the light" as the shadow of a heavy cloud crosses the ground, and the unruly scamper as the covers are run out for the lightest shower, can stop good cricket short, as at Lord's on Saturday. Whatever happened to the "sticky wicket" and slow left-arm bowling?

Cricket relies heavily on variations in the weather. Seam-bowlers exploit atmospheric conditions, both in the air and on the ground. Rained on or not, pitches sweat

according to humidity, and balls bounce high or low as a result. So it is illogical to suspend play in bad light merely to protect teams from climatic unfairness. Some "bad light" rule is necessary for the batsman's safety, naturally, though the judgment of danger should be left to the umpires. But danger aside, slight bad light should be just bad luck.

Weather and time are not allowed such indulgence in other sports. Football is almost an all-weather activity, though it is played in limited time and has the frustration of too many low-score draws as a result. Tennis is weather-prone but in principle timeless. The Wimbledon championships even overflow their allotted span a day or two if necessary.

Golf's total weather-proofing is second only to scuba diving, and council planning committees are currently drowning in applications for new courses. With such competition, cricket runs from a change in the weather at its peril. Australian one-day cricket has been proofed against gloom, and with light-coloured balls and perimeter floodlighting the game is now as bright as baseball. English cricket may not want to abandon decorum that far, but nor should it accept defeat from that old enemy, the English weather, without a fight.

Economic dons late off the mark?

From Sir Alan Walters

Sir, It is more than a decade since I first criticised the EMS/ERM, and some four years since I dubbed it "half-baked". Although a few academic economists have complained about the absurdities of the pegged exchange-rate system, I have been a member of a most beleaguered minority.

Thus I wholeheartedly welcome the support for Mrs Thatcher's anti-ERM views expressed in the joint letter from my old colleague and Britain's most distinguished economic theorist, Professor Frank Hahn, and Mr M. R. Weale (June 22). Since they were among the 364 economists who bitterly criticised Mrs Thatcher's 1981 policies, they cannot be convicted of right-wing ideological extremism. As they point out, the case against a pegged exchange-rate system rests firmly on simple logic and historical evidence.

My concern, however, is why are they so late in their condemnation? Furthermore, why have so few academic economists not pilloried the EMS/ERM for the absurdity that it is? Why have so many reputable British economists supported entry into the ERM, either overtly by making specious claims or tacitly by remaining mum?

I suspect their reluctance was partly the result of Mrs Thatcher's attempt to reform the universities. Academic support for the Thatcherite views was, if not quite unthinkable, letting academic down at a most trying time. Now the Thatcher threat has been banished academic can once more exercise its wider intellect rather than defend its narrow interests.

A pity academic was so late. It is at least debatable whether the Europeanists would have had such a steady success in inducing a Tory government to embrace the ERM if academic opinion had emphasised its fatal flaws. Now, alas, it is too late. Political reputations have been laid on the line and it is unlikely that, barring major catastrophes, we shall withdraw from the ERM. We must live with its unfortunate consequences.

Yours etc.,

ALAN WALTERS,

2820 P Street North West,

Washington DC, 20007, USA.

June 22.

Slanging match

From Mrs Jean Land

Sir, Mr Mark Almond (June 20) seeks to denigrate Mr Heath's criticism of Mrs Thatcher by comparing him with the "uncouth intolerance of a fishwife slanging on behalf of her only brat".

On behalf of all fishwives and many other hardworking members of the community, I find Mr Almond's remarks objectionable. It is precisely this contempt which is held by the Conservative party and its supporters for those to whom they regard themselves as superior which causes the drift towards other parties.

All honour to Mr Major in his aims to bring about a classless society. All honour to Mr Heath for expressing the misgivings of many of us.

Yours sincerely,

JEAN LAND,

15 New Street, Penryn, Cornwall.

June 20.

Labour and scientists

From Sir Sigmund Sternberg

Sir, How can Nigel Hawkes say "Labour's wrong way to engineer industry's revival" (June 12) that science is irrelevant to Britain's competitiveness? We have had warnings from ICI, Glaxo, Wellcome, Smith, Kline and French, BP and the pharmaceutical industry that Britain is losing its viability as a base for applied research. The quality of that research plainly depends on a steady supply of people and ideas from basic science.

The fact is also that unless we work at the frontiers of science — in high temperature superconductivity and developmental biology, molecular sciences, surface science and the rest — we will have no body of people who can understand, produce or even use the products and processes which will make us competitive in the future.

The government's answer is to rely on the market. A firm says to researchers, "Find a drug to do this", or "Find the electronic technology to do that". But such goal-driven re-

search is quite simply impossible without the base of research initiated by curiosity or speculation, in which bright, inquisitive people are given the environment, security and resources to follow their instincts to an end — even, sometimes to no end at all.

Labour's new science policy is no product of ivory towers. It has been developed with the help of practising industrialists. I should know. The Labour Finance Industry Group, of which I am the deputy chairman, consists of over 150 senior managers of British industry who are also members of the Labour party. We have been involved at every stage of policy development to ensure that it is relevant to the real needs of the economy.

Unlike the government, Labour is prepared to recognise market failure. And then to work out constructive policies to do something about it. Yours faithfully,

SIGMUND STERNBERG

(Deputy Chairman),

Labour Finance and Industry Group,

Star House, Grafton Road, NW3.

June 17.

Mobility allowance

From Mr David Prescott and

Mr A. Robert Appleby

Sir, We are concerned that mobility allowance (MA) and attendance allowance give rise to so many anomalies as to be virtually incomprehensible to the general public. The following examples are all of MA in practice.

1. Haemophiliacs' initial applications are normally rejected, but if the sufferers are prepared to seek expert advice and submit to the stress of an appeal (many are not) this is usually successful.

2. The charity Motability has known cases of paraplegics being restricted to a "short award" of MA which does not qualify them for one of their vehicles.

The letter from Professor J. Pattison and Dr J. Secker-Walker (June 22) should have stated that the Midland is one of the hospitals whose current services will be centralised at the new hospital proposed for development on the University College London campus.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

The military case for fighting off regimental cuts

From Major General P. L.

de C. Martin

Sir, The author of your leader "Regimenting the army" (June 20) is mistaken in some of his beliefs. Soldiers of today recognise that reductions in the heavy weaponry of BAOR and the units that man it are justified by the improved situation in Eastern Europe; but they also know the dangers of cuts in manpower without a corresponding reduction in commitments. There is a particular danger in reducing too far the work-horses of the army, the infantry of the line.

In investigating against what he calls "single-battalion regiments" your leader appears to believe that in some unspecified way they could be made more efficient militarily and more cost-effective by being amalgamated with others. The real test, of course, is how well recruited a regiment is and how successful it is in retaining its soldiers.

Many of the hitherto-unamalgamated regiments have the best recruiting records for the very reason that they have a long-established identity. Why destroy them for the benefit of regiments less well-recruited?

All infantry regiments are grouped in administrative divisions which are responsible for recruiting, basic training and postings, and it is standard practice for divisions composed of single-battalion regiments to cross-post soldiers on a temporary basis from one regiment to another whenever necessary. The true flexibility required is in the retention of only those regiments which can be employed world-wide and in any role from nuclear and conventional warfare to patrolling the streets of Northern Ireland.

Yours faithfully,

PETER MARTIN,

17 Station Street,

Lymington, Hampshire.

June 20.

From Sir Philip Goodhart, MP for

Beckenham (Conservative)

Sir, Your criticism of the Scottish

and Queen's divisions for refusing

to make recommendations to the

seasonal pricing, advance booking,

time tickets, restricting car park

areas and so on. Successful applica-

tion of such policies will, of course,

depend on respect for the law by the

visiting public.

It is, however, misleading to point

to the rare occasions when policing

is needed at historic sites where

exceptional and unreasonable de-

mands are made to use them for

incompatible purposes. In fact, only

a few historic sites are under any

long-term threat from the volumes

of visitors they attract.

Results produced in May by the

Task Force on Tourism and the

Environment, set up by the Depart-

ment of Employment last August,

have shown there is general agree-

ment as to how to proceed to reduce

the impact of tourists, while not

reducing the vital financial contri-

bution that tourism makes to

conservation. All that is now needed

is the will to proceed.

Yours faithfully,

MONTAGU OF BEAULIEU,

Chairman,

English Heritage,

Fortress House,

23 Savile Row, W1.

June 24.

Children in care

From Mr David N. Jones

Sir, The Staffordshire child-care

enquiry provides yet more evidence

in support of the urgent creation of a

general social-work council, a

permanent national body with over-

sight responsibilities.

The independent enquiry was

established after representatives of

some of the children failed to

persuade the county council to

institute an internal review. After

months of bitter wrangling and press

exposés, the independent enquiry

was finally set up.

If a general council had been in

existence, the children, their par-

ents, or any other interested party

could have referred their concerns

direct to the council for investiga-

tion and action. The council's

findings would be published and

disciplinary action against staff

would be possible.

A general council would offer a

consistent overview of standards, a

new and independent avenue for

public complaints and thus greater

protection for social workers, the

vast majority of whom provide an

effective caring service and who

deserve public respect and support.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID N. JONES

(General Secretary),

British Association of

Social Workers,

16 Kent Street, Birmingham 5.

Bloom and burgundy

From Mr Paul Fallon

Sir, Are we really to believe that a

traditional Bloomsday breakfast

("Dubliners" spout Joyce and sink

porter" report and photograph,

June 17) is now washed down with

burgundy? Aside from doubting

whether Bloom was capable of

anything so dissolute, Joyce himself

nurtured a lifelong passion against

drinking red wine, habitually declin-

ing a proffered glass by telling his

would-be host that he was not in the

habit of drinking beef steak.

Yours,

PETER FALLON,

65 Holborn Viaduct, EC1.

June 17.

A way to unity?

From Mr Tim Wilding

Sir, If the "merits and cost savings

of a common language" are to be de-

bated (Lord Boardman's letter, June

17) may I quote William Brown on

the subject of foreign languages:

"I don't want to talk to any French

folks, an' if they want to talk to me

they can learn English. English's 's

easy to talk. It's 'silly havin' other

languages. I don't see why all the other

countries shud 'learn English' 'stead

of us learnin' other languages, with

no sense in 'em. English's sense."

(William the Conqueror, Richmal

Crompton).

I spent a happy quarter of an hour

reading this and the rest of chapter

four to my son this evening.

Yours faithfully,

TIM WILDING,

Ewlyn House,

46 Leckhampton Road,

Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

June 17.

their division — on the somewhat shabby ground, born in no doubt of envy, that since they have been previously unaffected by amalgamation exercises, it is now their turn.

On rational grounds there is of course no justification whatever for this bizarre suggestion. Both regiments "suffer" from over-recruitment, are particularly highly regarded both at home and abroad and more than meet the criteria demanded of any successful business in the modern world.

There are, however, political, economic and ethnic considerations in this instance which far outweigh the "Buggins's turn" principle. The proposal, if implemented, would damage still further the Conservative cause in Wales, and rightly too, for the loss of one of that country's three remaining regiments (and the most senior) would increase unemployment in an area in which it is particularly high.

The ethnic implications are only too obvious. The idea of amalgamating a regiment 40 per cent of whose members have Welsh as their first language with the wholly admirable men of Cheshire beggars belief. What would be the reaction if it was proposed, say, to merge the Black Watch with the Green Howards?

This ill-considered proposal should be marched "off parade" in double quick time.

Yours faithfully,



BBC 1

6.00 **Ceejay**
6.30 **BBC Breakfast News**
9.05 **Rosemary Conley's Diet and Fitness Club** (r). 9.30 **The Animators**. Series about English animation looks at three animators from the West Country (r). (Ceejay)
10.00 **News**, regional news and weather 10.05 **Playdays** 10.25 **Jimbo and the Jet Set** (r) 10.35 **Horoscope** 10.45 **First Steps**. Walking and trotting examined by David Vine and Annette Ling (r)
11.00 **News**, regional news and weather 11.05 **High Chaparral**. The classic western series starring Cameron Mitchell and Mark Slade (r) 11.55 **Reviving Antiques**. John Fitzmaurice Mills demonstrates how to care for ivory and bone (r). (Ceejay)
12.00 **News**, regional news and weather 12.05 **National Geographic Special: The Incredible Machine**. A look deep down into the depths of the human body - an amazing view of the inner workings of the human machine made possible with special new camera techniques (r). (Ceejay) 12.55 **Regional news** and weather
1.00 **One O'Clock News** and weather 1.30 **Neighbours**. (Ceejay)
1.50 **Wimbledon '91**. Desmond Lynam presents the afternoon's action from centre court as the third seeded Martina Navratilova starts her defence of the women's singles title against the South African E. Reinach. Dan Maskell, John Barrett, Ann Jones and Virginia Wade are on hand with expert commentary. (Ceejay)
4.10 **Rupert the Bear** (r) 4.15 **The All New Popeye Show**. The first of a new series 4.35 **Dumbo** and **Dragons** (r)
5.00 **Newsround** 5.10 **The Activ-8**. Budding reporters investigate unusual sport and leisure activities including, this week, abseiling in the city, water polo, unicycling and weightlifting. (Ceejay)
5.25 **Neighbours** (r). (Ceejay) Northern Ireland: Sportsday 5.40 **Inside**
6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Peter Sissons and Anna Ford. Weather 6.30 **Regional news** magazines. Northern Ireland: Neighbours



Fitness matters: John Fashanu and Paula Hamilton (7.00pm)

7.00 **Good Sport**. New series that promises to combine sport and fun. An intriguing line-up tonight boasts a meeting with a 48-year-old twin sister triathlon team in San Diego, an investigation into the current teenage trend of skipping school for snooker, and timely tennis tips from Pat Cash. Presented by footballer John Fashanu, model Paula Hamilton and sports reporter Jim Allen. (Ceejay)
7.30 **EastEnders**. (Ceejay)
8.00 **Dad's Army**. Classic war-time capers with Arthur Lowe and the boys of the Home Guard. When Frazer reveals he has sizeable savings stashed away, Captain Mainwaring tries to give him some investment advice that will benefit both of them (r). (Ceejay)
8.30 **Big Break**. Battle of the bachelors game show with Jim Davidson, and guests including Dennis Taylor, Tony Drago from Malta and Waleman Ray Reardon. (Ceejay)
9.00 **Nine O'Clock News** with Martin Lewis. (Ceejay) Regional news and weather
9.30 **24 Carrot Gold**. Jasper Carrott treads the boards at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre and offers some trenchant comic reflections on Shakespearian, insomnia and Hamlet. (r). (Ceejay)
10.20 **Today** with William G. Stewart. Harry Carpenter reviews the day's play in the All England Tennis Championships.
11.20 **Cagney and Lacey: Organised Crime**. A young nun is murdered after a series of robberies at a convent - Cagney and Lacey are baffled by the seeming lack of motive until a Mob connection is revealed (r). (Ceejay) Northern Ireland: Children - A Rich Heritage 12.00-12.45 **Cagney and Lacey**
12.10am **Weather**

BBC 2

6.45 **Open University: Education - Through the Looking Glass**. Ends at 7.10
8.00 **News** 8.15 **Westminster**
8.30 **Yesterday at Wimbledon**. Highlights of yesterday's play (r)
10.00 **Cricket: Second Test**. Highlights from the final day's play of the England v West Indies game at Lord's (r)
10.40 **Film: Honey for Love** (1935, b/w). Lethargic backstage musical starring Gene Raymond as a struggling theatrical producer who seems to move from one misfortune to another. He is snubbed by Pat (Ann Sothern), a singer and the girl he loves, is bankrupted by a show he is producing and subsequently winds up in jail. With Fats Waller and Lionel Stander. Directed by Walter Lang
11.50 **Sign Extra: Nature - A Drop to Drink?** Magazine programme for the deaf community (r)
12.15 **Gordon T. Gopher** (r) 12.25 **Barney**. Cartoon (r)
12.30 **Wimbledon '91**. The start of the women's singles, won last year by Martina Navratilova for the ninth time. (Ceejay). Includes at 2.00 news and weather
3.00 **News** and weather followed by **Westminster Live** 3.50 **News**, regional news and weather
4.00 **Wimbledon '91**. Further coverage. (Ceejay)



Racism and reunification: Rianne Scipio reports (8.00pm)

8.00 **Black on Europe: Germany**.
● **CHOICE:** A series from the BBC's African Caribbean Unit looks at the prospect for European blacks as the single market approaches. Rianne Scipio's report from Germany, which has 50,000 Africans and Afro-Germans, is not reassuring. It seems that one of the by-products of reunification has been an increase in racial attacks, as scapegoats have been sought for rockling unemployment. Among the victims was an Angolan worker, beaten to death in the street by a gang of skinheads. But the programme also takes a wider historical view, showing that racism is by no means the product of the past two years. It traces the racial policies of the Third Reich, which ordered children of mixed race to be sterilised. And it examines the fate of the "concentration" inmates, born to German women and black American GIs. One black German says the country has a special kind of racism, worse than apartheid.
8.30 **Chickadee: Christmas Cheer**. Entertaining drama series about the teachers at a Midlands comprehensive. It is the last day of the Michaelmas term and Melanie Cough's final day as a teacher at the David Lloyd George Comprehensive. (Ceejay)
9.00 **The Beat of Saturday Night**. Highlights from the cynical antipodean's last series, featuring America's classiest male strippers, the Chippendales, and caustic comedienne Ruby Wax (r)
9.50 **From Wimp to Warrior: Mother, Father and Me**.
● **CHOICE:** In a further undermining of the myth of masculinity, *From Wimp to Warrior* profiles a self-confessed mother's boy, Maurice Herman. When you see his mum, you understand why. Domineering is hardly the word. No wonder he is 36 and single and has never had a lasting relationship with another woman. Maurice tracks mum down to Los Angeles. She is a bit-part actress who once appeared in a film with Sammy Davis Jr. She acts off screen as a clearly chuffed that Maurice is making a film about her and determined to seize her chance. Maurice also goes to see his dad, who used to be a Scottish boxing champion. They are soon involved in a shouting match. Dad blames the lad's hang-ups on not taking up the noble art. The parents have long since separated, leaving Maurice in an emotional limbo and with an accent that seems to have got stuck half way across the Atlantic. (Ceejay)
10.30 **Newsnight** with Peter Snow
11.15 **Jazz 625**. Simply Red singer Mick Hucknall introduces this collection of jazz performances assembled from the remnants of the original BBC2 series first transmitted in the Sixties. Featured are tenor sax player Ben Waters, trumpeter Henry "Red" Allen, organist at Williams Smith, vocalist Annie Ross and her husband and trumpet player Clark Terry. And valve trombonist Bob Brookmeyer.
11.45 **Not Necessarily... The first programme of this video art magazine series features the work of students from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art in Dundee and new commissions**
11.55 **Weather**
12.00 **Open University: An Introduction to Psychology - Eyewitness Memory**. Ends at 12.30

ITV

6.00 **TV-am**
9.25 **All Gued Up**. Game show hosted by David Hamilton 9.55 **Thames News** and weather
10.00 **Out of This World**. *My Mother the Cow*. American comedy series
10.30 **This Morning**. Family magazine series presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley
12.10 **Red, Jane and Freddy** sing favourite nursery rhymes (r)
12.30 **News** with Nicholas Owen. Weather 1.10 **Thames News** and weather
1.20 **Home and Away** 1.50 **A Country Practice**
2.20 **Taken the High Road**. Drama serial set in the Highlands 2.50 **Crash Course**. Game show in which team leaders Paula Wilcox and Simon Williams play celebrity guests - Anna Cartmel, Alan Freeman, Shane Richie and Michaela Strachan - try to guess the identity of mystery personalities through ludicrous comparisons. Hosted by Chris Tarrant
3.15 **ITN News** headlines 3.20 **Thames News** headlines 3.25 **Families**. Soap linking the north of England with Australia
3.55 **Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends** (r) 4.00 **What-a-Mess** (r) 4.15 **The Return of Dogtanian** 4.40 **Press Gang**. Award-winning comedy about a group of teenage newscasters (Oracle)
5.10 **Blockbusters** with Bob Holness
5.40 **News** with Carol Barnes. (Oracle) Weather
5.55 **Thames Help**. Jackie Spredley with advice for a couple who bought a retirement home full of faults from a housing association
6.00 **Home and Away** (r) (Oracle)
6.30 **Thames News** and weather
7.00 **Estimote**. Agricultural soap set in the Yorkshire Dales. (Oracle)
7.30 **Thames Reports: Time Lords**. An investigation into time share selling techniques



Double-cross? Garry Cooper with Mark Wingett (8.00pm)

8.00 **The Bill: Careless Whispers**. Fast-paced police drama. An unsuccessful raid raises doubts - has DC Carver's (Mark Wingett) informer got it in for someone? With Garry Cooper, Andrew Paul and Christopher Ellison. (Oracle)
8.30 **Wheel of Fortune**. Game show hosted by Nicky Campbell (Oracle)
9.00 **Selling Hitler**. Episode three of the entertaining and superbly-cast drama serial, and the new managing director of Stern becomes an enthusiastic believer in the Hitler diaries. With Jonathan Pryce, Alexi Sayle, Alison Doody, Julie T. Wallace and Tom Baker
10.00 **News** at Ten with Alastair Burnet and Alastair Stewart. (Oracle) Weather 10.30 **Thames News** and weather
10.40 **Viewpoint '91: The Road Ahead - Winners and Losers**
● **CHOICE:** The third in a series of Central Television documentaries about the building of the M40 from Oxford to Birmingham attempts a profit and loss account how the 55 miles are open. Among the losers are farmers Martin and Sheila Nichols. Their 126 acres, in the family for three generations, are now split by six lanes of tarmac and their peace has been shattered forever by the unceasing roar of traffic. But the M40 has been welcomed by small Oxfordshire villages which no longer have heavy lorries thundering along their narrow lanes. The town of Banbury has moved feelings. It too, has been relieved of congestion but fears that the motorway will make it a magnet for commuters. Office blocks are going up, supermarkets are moving in and the cricket ground is wanted for development. Dr John Adams from London University says discouragingly that new roads only encourage more traffic. (Oracle)
11.40 **Prisoners: Call Block H**
12.30am **It's Myself**. Dave Adams considers ways in which evangelical Christianity can find a place on television
1.00 **Videoview** with Mariela Frostup
1.30 **Duels of the Mind: The Fiend Has Offered His Queen**. Series hosted by Raymond Keene, chess correspondent of *The Times*, detailing the 12 best games ever played, with insights into the history and personalities of chess. This week, the Zukertort v Blackburn game held London in 1862
2.00 **Donahue**. Phil Donahue chairs a discussion on keeping your body young
3.00 **60 Minutes**. American news and current affairs magazine
4.00 **Entertainment UK**
5.00 **Three's Company**. American sitcom
5.30 **ITN Morning News** with Brenda Rowe. Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 **The Channel Four Daily**
9.25 **Music in the Midnight Sun**. A documentary following the Toronto Symphony Orchestra's visit to the Canadian Arctic (r)
10.30 **CrossTalk**. Young people's discussion programme (r)
11.00 **In the Realm of the Shark**. Ron and Valerie Taylor, who filmed the shark sequences in the film *Jaws*, test theories about why sharks do or do not attack humans by getting into the water alongside them (r)
12.00 **The Parliament Programme** presented by Sue Cameron
12.30 **Business Daily** with Susannah Simons
1.00 **Sesame Street** (r)
2.00 **Cities of Islam: Dubai**. First of a new documentary series exploring five historic Islamic cities around the world, beginning with Dubai
2.30 **Film: Mister 880** (1950, b/w). A charming comedy starring Edmund Gwenn in the title role - a junk dealer and high-principled counterfeiter who, for ten years, has been printing bonds for 40 and 50 one-dollar bills every month to maintain himself so as not to be a burden on the taxpayer. Burt Lancaster plays the ambitious treasury department agent sent to bring him to book and Dorothy McGuire is the young lady staying in Gwenn's house with whom Lancaster falls in love. Edmund Gwenn earned an Academy Award nomination for his performance. Directed by Edmund Goulding
4.10 **Film: Cuckoo Cavaliers** (1940, b/w). A Three Stooges comedy short in which Larry, Moe and Curly get landed with a South of the Border beauty salon after a mix-up with a Mexican estate agent. Directed by Jules White
4.30 **Fifteen-to-One**. Fast-paced quiz hosted by William G. Stewart
5.00 **Noah's Ark: Patagonia - Tombo Point**. A repeat of the Spanish ecology series which the week wrote a small headland in Patagonia which draws birds from a wide range of species, including vast colonies of seagulls (r)
5.30 **A Century of Childhood: Family**. An eight-part series exploring the changing experience of childhood in the 20th century, beginning with a consideration of how family life has changed (r)
6.00 **Dues**. Sitcom about an unlikely couple living in Los Angeles
6.30 **Happy Days**. Fifteen-set sitcom starring Henry Winkler
7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Jon Snow and Zohab Dawji (Telerevised) Weather 7.50 **Comment**
8.00 **Over Backyard: A Forest of Dreams**. Series about the attempts of ordinary people to combat the various threats to their environment. The programme focuses on the work of Ron Greer and his colleague Derek Pretwell in their attempts to plant deciduous trees in the Highlands
8.30 **Teenage Health Freak: Open Day**. The final part of Dorcas Pascoe's diverting comedy series finds Peter (John Langford) trying to finish his video project in time for the school open day, but Amanda (Liza Walker) has other plans
9.00 **Without Walls**. Channel Four's weekly arts series in two parts. *The Thing is*. Weddings sees writer and critic Paul Morley pondering the deeper significance of getting married, speaking to writer and actress Jane Asher at the London Blvd. Bar following Karen and Mark as they prepare for their big day. At 9.30 in *Art is Dead*. *Long Live TV Architecture* Mueli Graet considers the work of Herta and Paul Amir, a conceptual architect, and wonders whether his life is simply due to the fact that she can't get anything built



A lesbian affair: Beryl Reid and Susannah York (10.00pm)

10.00 **Film: The Killing of Sister George** (1968). A powerful and darkly amusing adaptation of the play by Frank Marcus with superb performances from Beryl Reid, Susannah York and Coral Browne in the three leading roles. Reid plays an ageing, lonely actress and York her partner. Browne is the third member of the triangular love affair, a BBC producer whose sacking of Reid precipitates the collapse of Reid's life and love. Director Robert Aldrich had previously directed *What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?* and *The Dirty Dozen*, apparently the perfect preparation for this muscular drama
12.35am **Hot House Flowers - Feet on the Ground**. A film chronicling the swift rise to prominence of this five-strong Irish band that play music ranging from traditional Celtic melodies to folk, blues and rock 'n' roll. Ends at 1.35

TV VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
As London except: 6.25pm-7.00 *Anglia News* 7.30-8.00 *Home and Away* 8.00 *Localround* 8.30-9.00 *Blackout* 9.00-9.30 *News* 9.30-10.00 *Localround* 10.00-10.30 *Localround* 10.30-11.00 *Localround* 11.00-11.30 *Localround* 11.30-12.00 *Localround* 12.00-12.30 *Localround* 12.30-1.00 *Localround* 1.00-1.30 *Localround* 1.30-2.00 *Localround* 2.00-2.30 *Localround* 2.30-3.00 *Localround* 3.00-3.30 *Localround* 3.30-4.00 *Localround* 4.00-4.30 *Localround* 4.30-5.00 *Localround* 5.00-5.30 *Localround* 5.30-6.00 *Localround* 6.00-6.30 *Localround* 6.30-7.00 *Localround* 7.00-7.30 *Localround* 7.30-8.00 *Localround* 8.00-8.30 *Localround* 8.30-9.00 *Localround* 9.00-9.30 *Localround* 9.30-10.00 *Localround* 10.00-10.30 *Localround* 10.30-11.00 *Localround* 11.00-11.30 *Localround* 11.30-12.00 *Localround* 12.00-12.30 *Localround* 12.30-1.00 *Localround* 1.00-1.30 *Localround* 1.30-2.00 *Localround* 2.00-2.30 *Localround* 2.30-3.00 *Localround* 3.00-3.30 *Localround* 3.30-4.00 *Localround* 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By NORMAN HAMMOND
ARCHAEOLOGY
CORRESPONDENT

Attention is now likely to shift back to the problems of publishing the scrolls. Eighty per cent of the material from Qumran Cave 4, the richest source, remains unstudied. The recent forced resignation of John Strugnell, of Harvard university, editor-in-chief of the project since 1953, is expected to speed things up. Professor Strugnell's successor, Emanuel Tov of the Hebrew university in Jerusalem, has a reputation for getting things done.



By MICHAEL MCCARTHY
ENVIRONMENT
CORRESPONDENT

Prime mini

Continued from page 1

grade the significance of the speech.

Downing Street insisted yesterday that the speech would still be a keynote event for spelling out Mr Major's "own brand of Conservatism". Mr Patten indicated at a press conference, however, that the speech was



ster silences

Continued from page 1

Road organisations said last night that they were not surprised by the initiative taken by the department but perhaps amazed that it has taken so long for the problem to be given official recognition. The AA said it had undertaken considerable research into the subject which has highlighted particular problems faced by elderly drivers, and the RAC said it was not astounded by the outcome of the government research. Two years ago, the AA Foundation for Road Safety Research highlighted the problem.

Continued from page 1

unlikely to break much new ground. "I am sure that every speech by the prime minister is a big one," he said.

When challenged about the assertion by Gordon Brown, the Labour MP, that an "ism" had become a "wasn" in three days, Mr Patten added: "John Major has spelled out in a series of speeches the sort of Conservative policies which

ACROSS

- 1 Blue's switched in running order (6).
- 5 Have a girlfriend, don't rush things (2,6).
- 9 Fats about to become runny in plant (10).
- 10 15 or 105 gallons (4).
- 11 From this I find military's dispositions (4,4).
- 12 Past that, having retired (6).
- 13 Forced to be a servant, by the sound of it (4).
- 15 Tenor — man somehow providing a flourish (8).
- 18 Beard producing criminal appearance (8).
- 19 Born and died in want (4).
- 21 Lay about everybody — sorry! (6).
- 23 A little money once missing from the King's business — it's out in the open (8).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,640

W	A	T	E	R	I	N	G	H	O	L	E
A	U	E	A	Q	I	E	E				
R	E	D	E	N	S	I	N	M	E	T	A
R	O	O	E	E	I	U	I				
A	D	R	O	I	T	S	O	T	E	R	I
N	T	T				G	I				
T	O	C	S	I	N	P	L	A	T	E	S
O	O	O	Y	E	O						
M	O	M	E	N	T						
A	M	A	L	A	P	E	R	I	T		
S	E	A	I	U	W	E	G				
L	E	T	O	N	D	E	S	P	A	I	R
E	E	G	E	E	Y	A	O				
M	A	T	H	R	E	A	S	S	I	N	G

DOWN

- 2 Move about a step (5).
- 3 Complain after excellent food (5,4).
- 4 I clear out some of the pastrycook's stock (6).
- 5 Want a proverb to be self-evident (2,7,6).
- 6 Take girl to party for a dance (8).
- 7 Some of the letters (temp types are unsatisfactory) (5).
- 8 Atone for being a fool and a milkop (2,7).
- 14 Love a party, taking one's share (9).
- 16 Clever plan to give chap work overseas (9).
- 17 Stop purchase forcibly (4,4).
- 20 Timid fellow captured in a foray (6).
- 21 Flexible man fired first (5).
- 24 Enchanting woman left out of the group (5).

Hong K	24	79	c	Taiwan	27	81	a
Innsbruck	24	79	c	Tenerife	29	84	a
Istanbul	24	75	t	Tokyo	26	80	a
Jeddah	24	53	s	Toronto	22	72	a
Jo'burg	13	55	s	Turkey	29	84	a
Khartoum	31	86	c	Vancouver	26	79	a
L. Palmas	26	85	c	Vancouver	26	79	a
L. Tqset	14	57	c	Vancouver	26	79	a
Moscow	29	84	a	Vancouver	26	79	a
Nairobi	27	81	r	Warsaw	27	81	r
London	14	57	r	Wash'n ton	19	66	c
Los Angeles	19	62	c	Zagreb	26	79	a
Luxembg	18	54	c	Zurich	25	77	f

(denotes) figures are latest available

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Sells	Bank	Sells
Australia s	2.24	2.09	
Austria Sch	21.60	20.10	
B. Belgium F	63.10	58.10	
C. Canada Cdn	1	57.95	
D. Denmark Mk	11.00	11.58	
E. Finland Mk	17.00	16.58	
F. France Fr	10.27	9.72	
G. Germany Dm	3.025	2.85	
H. Greece Dr	332.00	312.00	
I. Iceland Isk	13.25	12.25	
J. Ireland Pst	2.145	1.973	
K. Hong Kong S	229.00	213.00	
L. Netherlands Gld	3.445	3.225	
M. Norway Kr	12.02	11.22	
N. Sweden Svk	240.00	240.00	
O. South Africa Rd	8.85	8.50	
P. Spain Pes	16.90	17.30	
Q. Switzerland F	11.13	10.40	
R. Switzerland Fr	2.53	2.40	
S. Turkey Lira	7500.00	6700.00	
T. U.S.A. Dollars	1.73	1.61	
U. Yugoslavia Din	53.00	35.00	

Rates for all denominated bank only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

Yesterday: Temp: Max 6am to 8pm, 21C; 21C (70F); Min 8pm to 6am, 9C (48F). Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 24C (75F); 6pm to 8pm, 6.4 hr.

These are Sunday's figures

Yesterday: Temp: max 8am to 6pm, 15C (59F); min 6pm to 8pm, 6C (43F). Humidity: 60% to 80%. Wind: 24hr to 6pm, 11 km/hr; 6pm to 8pm, 11 km/hr. Bar: mean sea level, 6cm, 1,015.8 mmHg, falling. 1,000 metres = 29.53 in.

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0699 500 followed by the appropriate code:

- Greater London..... 701*
- East Surrey/Sussex..... 702*
- Dorset/Hants & IOW..... 703*
- Devon & Cornwall..... 704*
- Wiltz/Glouce/Avon/Som..... 705*
- Berks/Bucks/Oxon..... 706*
- Essex/Herts & Beds..... 707*
- Northfolk/Suffolk/Cambri..... 708*
- West Mids & Sh Chm & Gwent..... 709*
- Shropshire Herefords & Worcs..... 710*
- Central Midlands..... 711*
- East Midlands..... 712*
- Lincoln & Humberside..... 713*
- Dyfed & Powys..... 714*
- Gwynedd & Chwyd..... 715*
- Wales North..... 716*
- W & S Yorks & Dalms..... 717*
- N E England..... 718*
- Cumbria & Lake District..... 719*
- W Scotland..... 720*
- W Central Scotland..... 721*
- Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders..... 722*
- E Central Scotland..... 723*
- Glasgow & E Highlands..... 724*
- N W Scotland..... 725*
- Cathness, Orkney & Shetland..... 726*
- N Ireland..... 727*

Weathercall is charged at 34p per minute (cheap rates) and 45p per minute at all other times.

It was with the same indifference that Mr. Heseltine disposed of David Alton (Lib-Dem, Mossley Hill).

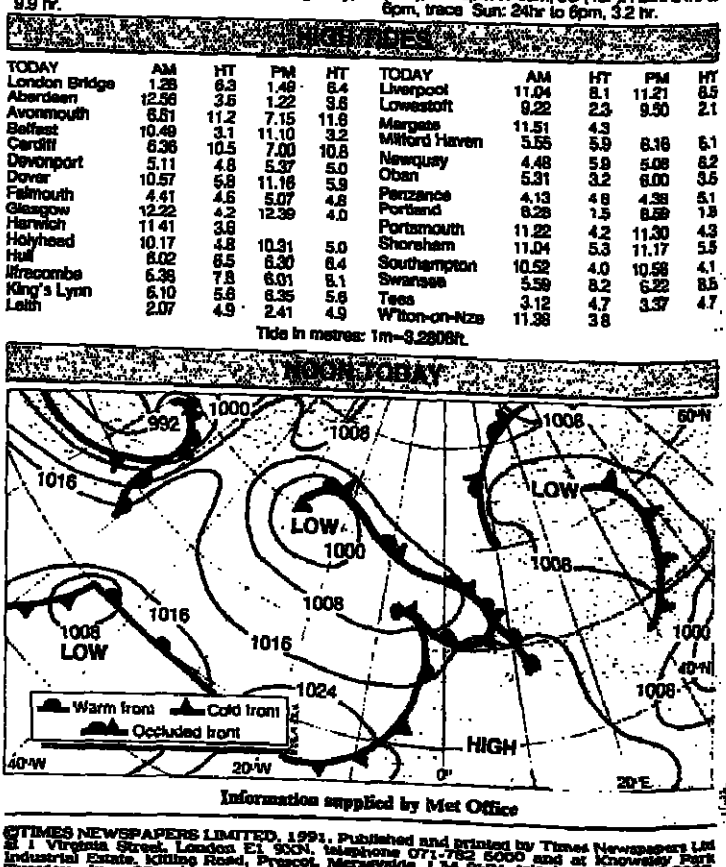
This was cruel. Alton had made a workmanlike, workmanlike speech, in sub-Worlock ("sop knocking Liverpool"), his pale face puckered with anxiety. The mouse had complimented the eagle more than once on his beneficence to Liverpool, reminding him that mice had often cooperated with eagles there.

By now the cheers were loud. Liverpool was far below as he swept ("... Every time Labour gets power..." towards the uplands of ideological abstraction. "Labour," he cried, concluding, "are not fit to govern". Anywhere, that is, not just Liverpool.

Was it just wishful thinking or did Mr Heseltine hear, in the cheering as he resumed his seat, a rueful note?

MATTHEW PARRIS

Ramble on: Family Rambling Day is fast approaching (so prepare the waterproofs). But what to do about members of the family who threaten a walk out?



GOLD
NORTH SEA OIL
RETAIL PRICE

TUESDAY JUNE 25 1991

- BUSINESS AND FINANCE 21-28
- DEGREE RESULTS 25
- LAW 29,31
- LAW REPORT 33
- SPORT 35-40

Exchange seeks more detail on Spurs

DEALINGS in Tottenham Hotspur shares are likely to be resumed as soon as the formal offer document from Alan Sugar and Terry Venables is published.

The Stock Exchange is sympathetic to the reconstituted Tottenham board's wish for an early relisting of the shares, which have been suspended since October 19 last year, but believes shareholders should have a clearer idea of the company's financial position.

A spokeswoman said yesterday that the Stock Exchange would need "further information on the company's financial situation". This would be expected to include a statement on working capital.

The Sugar/Venables offer document, which is likely to include the necessary information, is expected to appear in the next few days.

Suspension extended

THE suspension of dealings in units in the three authorised unit trusts operated by Wright Seligman Fund Managers has been extended by the Securities and Investments Board (SIB).

Dealings was originally suspended by the trustee, Lloyds Bank, on May 21 for one month. The extension by statutory notice is open ended. New fund managers, Chartered Asset Management, have been appointed. The SIB said it was unsafe to allow dealings in the units until concern about claims over the assets was resolved. The three funds are worth £6.5 million and have 250 investors.

Whyte to move

LADBROKE has let a 70,000 sq ft office development in Glasgow's St Vincent Street to Whyte & Mackay, the whisky company owned by Gallaher. Whyte & Mackay will move into its new headquarters building early next year.

THE SOUND

US Dollar 1.6435 (+0.0110)
German mark 2.9328 (-0.0065)
Exchange index 89.9 (+0.2)

STOCK MARKETS

FT 30 Share 1921.1 (-26.2)
FT-SE 100 2458.3 (-29.2)
New York Dow Jones 2928.44 (-37.12)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 23765.46 (-509.62)

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES: Davy Corp 61 1/2p (+11p)
WPP 470p (+15p)
FALLS: Pearson 70 1/2p (-13p)
Thomson Corp 91 1/2p (-20p)
Sheila 43 1/2p (-11p)
Wellcome 56 1/2p (-18p)
Courtauld Text 33 1/2p (-14p)
Reuters 77 1/2p (-18p)
Alfred Lyons 53 1/2p (-13p)
Bass 92 1/2p (-19p)
Grand Met 73 1/2p (-17p)
Guinness 95 1/2p (-12p)
Whitbread 'A' 46 1/2p (-10p)
P&O 137 1/2p (-12p)
Auto Sec 20 1/2p (-10p)
Cable & Wireless 82 1/2p (-10p)
Delta 38 1/2p (-8p)
Bovater 61 1/2p (-12p)
MEPC 48 1/2p (-8p)

Closing Prices...Page 27

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 11 1/2%
3-month Interbank: 11 1/2-11 3/4%
3-month eligible bills: 10 1/2-10 3/4%
US: Prime Rate 8 1/2%
Federal Funds 5 1/4%
3-month Treasury: 5 1/2-5 5/8%
30-year bonds 8 1/2-8 5/8%

CURRENCIES

London: New York £ \$1.6435
E: DM2.9328
E: Sfr2.5203
E: FF6.5720
E: Yen225.20
E: Index89.9
ECU 20.86833
E: ECU4.28800

GOLD

London Posing: AM \$355.20 pm \$360.90
close \$361.00 \$361.50 (\$219.25-219.75)
New York: Comex \$360.45-360.95

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jul) \$18.15 bbl (\$18.50)
Denotes latest trading price

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 133.5 May (1987=100)

Nikkei fall sparks chain reaction

Tokyo scandal sends world shares plunging

By OUR CITY STAFF

SHARE prices around the world fell sharply, worried by the continued strength of the dollar and the shock waves from Japan's latest financial scandal.

In New York, the Dow Jones Average opened with a fall of almost 30 points that saw share prices in London close at their lowest levels of the day. The FT-SE 100 index fell 29.2 to 2,458.3 with government securities down more than 1/4 at the longer end in nervous trading.

London took its lead from the overnight fall in Tokyo which saw the Nikkei tumble

more than 500 points in the wake of the resignations of the presidents of two of Japan's leading securities houses.

But investors in London also had to contend with yet another gloomy survey from the CBI indicating that the economy was still deep in recession. The May trade figures only confused sentiment and were generally disregarded by fund managers.

Dealers stressed that trading conditions remained thin with turnover levels slumping to one of their lowest of the year. By the close, only 327 million shares had changed hands. Brokers maintain that another cut in interest rates is required

to stimulate industry and encourage fund managers to commit more funds to the market. But with the Bank of England apparently dragging its feet and hopes of a bid for ICI down 21p at £12.64, continuing to recede, the short-term outlook for the equity market remains dull. Leading shares bore the brunt of the mark-down, although selling pressure was light.

The worldwide markets plunged had prices on Wall Street down more than 40 points at 2,925.09 by lunch-time. But volume was light at 78 million shares and analysts said there was no panic selling.

Uncertainty which followed the scandal involving two of Japan's largest securities firms was heightened by the failure of the Group of Seven finance ministers to persuade Japan to cut interest rates and gloomy forecasts over second quarter profits from American corporations.

Dollar fails to hold early gains

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE dollar swung wildly and equity markets around the world fell sharply after a day of erratic trading after Sunday's apparently inconclusive meeting of the Group of Seven finance ministers in London.

The dollar at first rose sharply in Tokyo, as traders concluded that efforts to coordinate currency and interest rate policies between America, Japan and Germany would fail.

The strength of the dollar and gloom about international economic management also contributed to a fall of 509 points, or 2 per cent in the Tokyo stock market, the third such steep drop in less than a week. The weakness of equities in Tokyo, due primarily to the share-dealing scandals at Nomura and Nikko securities, spilled over into other markets.

In London, the FT-SE 100 fell 29.2 points to 2,458.3 and on Wall Street the Dow Jones industrial average was off nearly 40 points at around 2,925 in early afternoon trading.

But the dollar rapidly gave up its early gains when European markets opened and fell further in New York, prompting stop-loss sales by speculators with overweight dollar

positions, as well as rumours that the Japanese and German central banks might have begun intervening covertly to push the US currency down.

One factor in the dollar's reversal, especially against the German mark, was a misquoted comment by John Major. He was said to have expressed support for an increase in German interest rates in an interview in the French daily *Figaro*. Mr Major was reported to have said that "a tightening of German monetary policy is perhaps justified". But Downing Street said the prime minister had actually said that the present tight stance of German policy was justified by the pressures of unification.

By the close of trading in London, the dollar stood at DM1.7825 and Y138.80, below its closing levels of DM1.8025 and Y138.95 in New York on Friday. At its peak in Tokyo, the dollar had risen as far as DM1.8175 and Y139.90, but its failure to break through a strong technical resistance point at DM1.82 was cited by many dealers as a key reason for the subsequent sharp decline.

Jack Solomon, analysts with the New York broker Bear Stearns said: "I think the main factor affecting the market is the Tokyo affair. That was depressing, and it proved its point by depressing Tokyo, London and Frankfurt. Then we came around, and it depressed us."

In Tokyo, shares were expected to open sharply lower today following yesterday's 509.62 point fall after Yoshihisa Tabuchi, president of Nomura Securities, and Takuya Iwasaki, head of Nikko Securities, resigned following reports of paybacks to big clients. Yamaichi, another of Tokyo's so-called Big Four securities houses, also admitted it was investigating substantial payments to corporate clients while Daiwa said that it had compensated more than 20 corporate clients for losses of 12.6 billion yen last year.

Officials at both Nomura and Nikko have acknowledged the firms had compensated corporate clients for investment losses but denied they had done so illegally.

Japan's big fish, page 23
Stock markets, page 26
Tempus, page 23



Slow spiral upwards: Sellers look to a better performance in the second half

Slump holds back advance at Gestetner

A WORLDWIDE slump in the sale of photographic equipment resulted in only a marginal profits rise, from £21.5 million to £21.7 million, in the six months to end-April at Gestetner Holdings (Matthew Bond writes).

Basil Sellers, the chairman, described the 70 per cent fall in trading profits from the photographic division as "a very bad result". He blamed the fall on the fact that the company's main markets had all gone into recession at the same time. He was more optimistic about the second half in the wake of a restructuring exercise.

Helped by a rise in interim dividend of 1.8p (1.7p), the shares rose 10p to 168p.

Southend bid for Frogmore lapses

By MATTHEW BOND

SOUTHEND Property Holdings' £140 million bid for Frogmore Estates lapsed, as expected, yesterday. By the time the bid closed at 1pm, Southend had acceptances from shareholders for just 4.24 per cent of Frogmore shares.

This low level confirmed that Southend had failed to talk over either of Frogmore's main shareholders - Mark Heath Securities, which owns 17 per cent, and Equitable Life, which has 10 per cent.

However, assuming Southend retains its 10 per cent stake in Frogmore, almost 40 per cent of Frogmore shares will be held by three shareholders. Southend last

night signalled its intention to remain an active shareholder by buying 30,000 Frogmore shares, the first it had bought since launching the bid.

Malcolm Dagul, Southend's chairman, admitted the lack of a cash alternative to Southend's all-share terms had scuppered the chances of success.

Dennis Cope, chairman of Frogmore, said: "We are very pleased our shareholders have rejected the bid and greatly appreciate the support they have demonstrated throughout the course of this bid."

Both Frogmore and Southend's shares were unchanged on news of the bid lapsing, at 31p and 88p respectively.

Trade deficit widens to £523m

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE trade gap widened in May, despite the harsh recession, suggesting that the government's target of a £6 billion current account deficit this year is overoptimistic.

Official figures showed the current account deficit increasing to £523 million last month from £437 million in April, reflecting a pickup in imports. For the first five months of 1991, the current account deficit was £3.5 billion.

The Central Statistical Office data for May showed the visible trade deficit widening to £923 million from £837 million in April. Imports rose to £9.47 billion from £9.32 billion. Exports rose to £8.56 billion from £8.47 billion.

The current account included a projected £400 million surplus on invisibles such as insurance, banking and tourism, although first-quarter estimates had shown the invisible surplus running at £77 million a month.

The deficit on visible trade, excluding oil and erratic items such as gems and aircraft, widened sharply to £1.1 billion in April from £888 million the month before. But over the latest three months, underlying volume exports were 2.5 per cent up on the same period in 1990, while imports were 5 per cent lower.

John Maples, economic secretary to the Treasury, dismissed the small widening of the trade gap last month, pointing instead to the improvement in the longer term picture and increased exports.

Labour called for an immediate cut in interest rates, together with new incentives aimed at halting the 10 per cent fall in investment (Richard Ford writes).

Gordon Brown, the shadow trade secretary, said the widening trade gap, the fall in manufacturing exports and the collapse in investment highlighted the need for decisive government action.

"These figures show little evidence of the industry-led or export-led growth essential for long-term sustainable growth," Mr Brown said.

"They reinforce the need for an end to interest rate dithering by the Prime Minister and Chancellor and for a cut in interest rates."

Goodison backs single currency

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

SIR Nicholas Goodison, the president of the British Bankers' Association and chairman of the TSB Group, has called for Britain to accept a single European currency to protect the City's position as Europe's leading financial centre.

Speaking at the Royal Society of Arts last night, Sir Nicholas said a single currency was inevitable, and that Britain should play a role in its introduction and a redefinition of the powers of the various European institutions. "I believe a single currency is

inevitable and that it will come," he said.

Sir Nicholas said that the City's continued success depended on Britain opposing protectionist moves in Europe. "I would not favour a Europe hostile to inward investment, a Europe preoccupied with national issues and protectionism," he said.

Sir Nicholas, the latest British business leader to join the calls for a European currency, gave a warning about "a regiment of footshooters," led by "the minister for own goals," who could undermine the City's position in financial

markets. He called instead for a bipartisan political approach.

"It is essential, without relaxing the standards of supervision to apply the lightest possible regulation to professional users of the market. In that way we can attract business to London," he said.

Earlier, he told the BBA banks have nothing to fear from the government's investigation into leading to small businesses. He said he hoped the results of the investigation by the Treasury and the Bank of England would end the matter and counter anecdotal reports with

accurate information. The Treasury hopes to publish its report this week.

"Any evidence of collusion should go straight to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission," he said. "We do not fear that because it is extremely unlikely. There is no cartel in banking in this country."

The association is keeping a back seat in the dispute, believing it to be a matter for individual banks. But it opposes any common agreement between banks and businesses, which "would run straight into difficulties with the Office of Fair Trading."

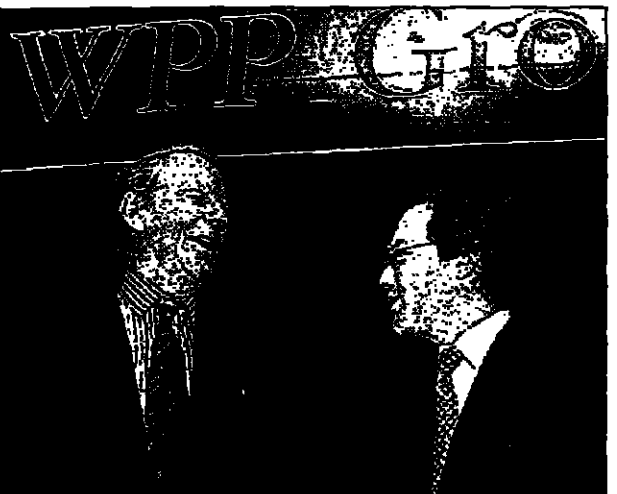
Polish your wits for the WPP show

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

WPP GROUP, the marketing service company, which cancelled its dividend payment last year and undertook a \$1 billion financial restructuring, would appear to have a shareholder register made up of tanned young men in sharp suits with American accents, if yesterday's annual general meeting is anything to go by.

There was a distinct absence of the pensioners in turquoise macintoshes who so often attend these events. What WPP has is an eccentric, if witty, chairman in the form of David Ogilvy, who celebrated his 80th birthday on Sunday. "Speak up," yelled Mr Ogilvy at regular intervals.

Martin Sorrell, the group's chief executive, told shareholders that the group had not achieved its budget in the first quarter. Worldwide revenues were down 5 per cent, operating costs had fallen 1 per cent and operating margins had been eroded. Despite this the shares rose 8p to 134p, after an announce-



Double act: David Ogilvy (left) and Martin Sorrell

ment by Fidelity International that it was interested in 8.3 per cent of WPP's ordinary shares and 8.6 per cent of the preference shares. Fidelity Management and Research Corporation, a sister company, said it was interested in 10 per cent of WPP's ordinary shares and ADRs. The market saw this as a show of faith in

Mr Sorrell's ability to turn the company around. A shareholder was prompted to ask about the group's gearing level and when the dividend payment was likely to be resumed. Having tried several versions of this question without finding the answer satisfactory, the shareholder gave up, observing that

Mr Sorrell should have been a politician.

Mr Ogilvy intervened with a request for the shareholder's identity. "You have to say not only your name but whether you represent the Bank of England," he said. "I represent only myself," replied the shareholder. "Lucky you," retorted Mr Ogilvy.

A Dr Stone asked whether the group had felt anything of the economic upturn in America. "No," said Mr Ogilvy. "There hasn't been one. We all behave as if there has never been a recession in the history of the world before. It's very babyish to think any company will never have a problem. Some of the young people in our company have never lived through bad times and it's not too easy for them to get the hang of it."

Shareholders were left to wonder whether Mr Ogilvy was including the relatively youthful Mr Sorrell in this category.

Comment, page 23

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New group of Lloyd's names launched

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

A NEW grouping of Lloyd's names has been launched on the eve of what is expected to be a stormy annual meeting of members of the Lloyd's insurance market tomorrow. At the same time, one of Lloyd's most prominent and controversial underwriters has criticised Lloyd's authorities and called for further action.

A new mutual aid society is being set up by Tom Benyon, a one-time MP, who from 1982 to 1986 was the first chairman of the Association of Lloyd's Members, the main representative organisation for non-professional members.

The Society of Names is aimed at investors in Lloyd's syndicates that have run up heavy losses, who want to take action against agents, underwriters or auditors.

Almost a quarter of Lloyd's members are already involved in litigation. Mr Benyon says that names should not wait for the Lloyd's review committee, which will investigate syndicates with heavy losses, because they may then be too late to take legal or other remedial action.

Names on the Outhwaite syndicate 317/661 for the 1982 year, which has already run up overall losses of £17.1 million due to asbestosis

claims, will face a further cash call of £17.1 million this year, against £76 million in 1990, the RHM Outhwaite underwriting agency has confirmed. Of this, only £4.4 million is for the reduced 1990 loss.

The syndicate, which has made above average profits in recent accounts, has again bucked the trend for 1988, by making a £7 million underwriting profit and an overall profit of £12 million on gross premiums of £73 million.

In his annual report, Richard Outhwaite criticises the council and executive of Lloyd's for taking little action to deal with the problems of the past, notably loss-making open syndicates, that are causing the gloom in the market.

He argues that Lloyd's should promote itself as a specialist market catering for unusual or difficult risks, since it cannot compete for conventional personal business and standard lines of insurance. Instead of being "all things to all men", the slogan should be "if it is unusual, come to Lloyd's", he writes.

Mr Outhwaite also says that the Council should step in to sort out long-running disputes over the time taken for premiums to pass from brokers to underwriters.



Dividend take-off: Airtours, the package holiday group led by David Crossland, (above) is lifting its interim dividend from 1.5p to 2p after trimming losses from £7.95 million to £6.21 million in the six months to March 31. The figure includes the £2.52 million cost of starting up Airtours International, the company's airline. *Tempus*, page 23

British Coal calls for support from private mining sector

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITISH Coal has called for support from its rival private sector coal producers in renegotiating key supply contracts with the power generators, and gave warning that if the contracts were not renegotiated successfully, the UK coal industry could be halved or even disappear.

The unusual plea for help underlines the seriousness for British Coal of its renegotiation with the privatised generators. Current contracts end in March 1993.

Malcolm Edwards, British Coal's commercial director, said the private mining sector had the "greatest interest" in

British Coal getting the proper price for its product after 1993. Speaking at the Royal School of Mines in London, Mr Edwards gave a warning against the close working relationship of National Power and PowerGen, even after their splitting and privatisation. He said: "You can see how careful they are never to diverge. Like Japanese wrestlers, their size is awe-inspiring, their grunts cavernous, but they never hurt each other, never come to any harm."

British Coal could give price stability in sterling, offering "unique predictability" for the generators. A stable British

Coal would offer opportunities for small or large private sector mining companies, in investment and sub-contracting terms.

He said: "To the extent that together we fail to renew the generators' contracts at the right price for British Coal, we shall both cease to exist."

Holding out the prospect of ten-year contracts, Mr Edwards said it would be ironic if "the country's longest-life fuel resource disappeared through a crack in the economy" just as coal was once again "incontrovertibly" becoming the economic choice for new power plants.

Pritzker ready to bid for Pan Am

From PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

JAY Pritzker, the chairman and chief executive of the Hyatt Hotel chain, based in Chicago, is said to be preparing a takeover bid for the cash-starved Pan Am Corp.

The American airline has been under bankruptcy protection for six months and Thomas Plassett, its chairman and chief executive, says it may not have enough money to last the year. Delta Airlines, a rival carrier, has expressed an interest in bidding for the airline.

Pan Am, once the leading American carrier but now sixth in the national league table, has confirmed it held talks with executives from the Pritzker family, whose personal wealth is estimated at about \$4 billion.

Those close to the negotiations say the family would be likely to provide between \$40 million and \$50 million in short-term cash to tide Pan Am over for the immediate future. They add that the Pritzkers would then commit several hundred million dollars to pay off creditors and bring the airline out of bankruptcy protection.

Figures released when Pan Am filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in January showed it owes its 20 largest creditors almost \$1 billion. Britain's BAA is owed \$2.5 million. At the end of March, Pan Am said it had \$30 million in cash and \$2.52 billion of liabilities.

The airline raised \$290 million by selling its London routes and Heathrow operations to United Airlines. United is said to want to buy other assets, but Pan Am favours a full merger of the kind thought to be on offer from Delta.

Hardy Oil & Gas profits top £10m

NET profits at Hardy Oil & Gas, the exploration company demerged from Trafalgar House, surged to £10.14 million in the year to end-March. Last time's retained profit, boosted by a £3.35 million extraordinary gain, was £8.44 million.

The group, which launched a £27.6 million rights issue in April, benefited from a £3.98 million tax credit. Pre-tax profits climbed to £6.15 million (£5.5 million), in line with estimates made in April. Turnover advanced to £39.3 million (£26.1 million). Earnings rose to 16.7p (10.2p) a share. Once again, there is no dividend, but the company hopes to recommend an initial dividend in the current financial year.

Polar drops 19.8 per cent

POLAR, the USM distributor of electronic components, fell 19.8 per cent to pre-tax profits of £482,000 (£601,000) in the six months to end-March. Turnover grew by 14 per cent to £7.71 million. Earnings slip to 4.0p (4.9p); the interim dividend is maintained at 2p. Operating profit fell from £566,000 to £480,000.

Amber rises to £2.4m

AMBER Industrial Holdings, the aerosol to solvents group 75 per cent owned by Caledonia Investments, lifted pre-tax profits from £2.28 million to £2.4 million in the year to end-March. Earnings slip to 36.3p (39.6p), but the final dividend is raised to 12p (11.6p), making an improved total of 16.5p (16p) for the year.

TT bid mandatory

TT HOLDINGS, the industrial group, has declared its hostile offer for Magnetics Materials Group mandatory after increasing its shareholding in the maker of magnetic and plastic components to more than 30 per cent through purchases in the stock market.

TT's third and final offer, which values MMG at £9.9 million, is worth 54p a share in cash. There is an all-share alternative. Shares in MMG closed at 55p, and those of TT at 135p, both unchanged. The next closing date is July 5, but the offer can be extended another ten days.

Allen profits up by 8.2%

ALLEN, the diversified construction group, has reported an 8.2 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £8.2 million. Almost 40 per cent of group operating profit comes from house-building, where sales rose 47.8 per cent to £16.9 million. A final dividend of 3.3p (3.2p) is being paid, to make a total of 4.9p (4.8p).

Etonbrook advances

Etonbrook Properties, the only property company to come to the stock market in the last 18 months, had a first-time pre-tax profit of £1.6 million for the year to end-March (£1.7 million loss). There is a maiden final dividend of 2.75p. Etonbrook was formed in 1985, under the Business Expansion Scheme.

EC reviews ICL deal

THE European Commission is reviewing plans by ICL, the British computer manufacturer now controlled by Japan's Fujitsu, to buy Nokia Data, the Finnish electronics firm. When the deal was announced last month, ICL said the new group would have annual revenues of about \$4 billion, most generated in Europe. Completion is expected in September. An inquiry has been started by the Commission's merger review unit, which must approve the acquisition within one month or open a full inquiry if it is worried the takeover could give ICL too much control.

Continuous declines

By MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

PROFITS have dived at Continuous Stationery, the Printaprint shops to business form distribution group, but Bill Eastwood, the chairman, is pegging the dividend at 4p a share, with a 2.8p final payment.

Pre-tax profits for the year to March 29 fell from £2.3 million to £1.26 million, after a £300,000 loss on the company's continental Printaprint venture. Mr Eastwood is contemplating retrenching and concentrating on Britain, where business has held up well during the recession.

A £478,000 extraordinary item relates primarily to the closure of the Nottingham factory after the company's withdrawal from the manufacture of business forms.

Mr Eastwood said that despite the downturn, the balance sheet is strong, with borrowings of £1.9 million, most of which has been converted into a term loan.

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- of charges where an application is made for a consent to discharge into controlled waters for the purpose of the 1989 Act or such a consent is imposed by the Authority. Such charges will be payable by the person applying for a consent or, where the consent is imposed, by the person authorised to do anything by virtue of the consent and
- of an annual charge where a discharge is made to controlled waters pursuant to such a consent by any person making a discharge. The annual charge will be calculated for each discharger by reference to the conditions in the discharge consent, the nature of the receiving waters and the Authority's unit cost.

The scheme revokes the charges scheme made on 28 September 1990.

The scheme has been the subject of public consultation, and has been approved by the Secretary of State for the Environment. It will come into effect on 1 July 1991. Charges in the financial year ending on 31 March 1992 will be nine-twelfths of those due in a full year. Details of the scheme and the due charges will be sent soon to the holders of all consents.

A copy of the scheme may be obtained free of charge by writing to:

P.O. Box No. 1461,
National Rivers Authority,
550 Streetsbrook Road, Solihull,
West Midlands B91 1QT

or inspected free of charge at any NRA Regional Office.

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LAW TIMES



Window shopping for a basket of mortgage services: but the government's proposed new rules could make the one-stop transaction more difficult

Home help or hindrance?

The government plans to open up the homes conveyancing market to banks, building societies and others. But the rules will stifle competition, Derek Wheatley, QC warns

Government proposals to broaden the way legal services are provided have a common theme. The public should have a wide choice of providers of such services and must receive the best value for money. There were many detractors of the original proposals and their criticisms found expression in the final wording of the Courts and Legal Services Act.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, has now asked for comment on new draft regulations under the act aimed at allowing more organisations to provide conveyancing. He should take note because the regulations would defeat a main aim of the exercise. The white paper said: "... it is possible to increase the choice available to those who are buying or selling their houses", and "... the responses of the consumer bodies in support of one-stop shopping lead weight to the view that there is scope to expand the range of those permitted to offer such services".

New legislation was therefore proposed to "provide for the Lord Chancellor to recognise professional bodies and other organisations as competent to authorise their members to provide conveyancing services".

One regulation, requiring the person authorised to do conveyancing, to offer his client a personal interview, is unnecessary and self-defeating. The interview must be with a qualified person "at a

place chosen by the client" near his home, his place of work or the property. The "qualified person" must deal with 16 named subjects, ranging from an explanation of conflict of interest to the way the client can complain about him.

If the client wants his building society in Durham to do his conveyancing but he now lives and works in Cornwall, the problems are obvious. Worse, the conveyancer cannot charge if the client changes his mind or fails to "instruct the authorised practitioner to continue". The idea of the interview was to enable the conveyancer to inform the client of possible conflicts of interest. In that case, he would have to stop acting for him.

None of this applies to the solicitor in private practice. He may see his client where he likes or not at all and can charge a proper fee. The "qualified person" is likely to be a solicitor or an authorised conveyancer in private practice. Most Law Society members are solicitors in private practice and perhaps understandably the interview principle has the society's approval.

However, it would stifle competition envisaged by the proposals. Ronald Armstrong,

of the Building Societies Association, confirms that the societies and other lenders "would find the personal interview requirement in its proposed form a serious obstacle in establishing an in-house conveyancing unit".

The aim of ensuring that a buyer can obtain his mortgage, conveyancing, an endowment policy, as well perhaps as estate agency and surveyor, under one roof is in danger. No large clearing bank will provide the service if this regulation remains unchanged.

The conveyancing of my present house was long and complicated. I instructed an experienced partner in a City firm to do it for me. He did an excellent job. We spoke on the telephone and corresponded frequently, but there was no need to meet. Any financial institution that is to offer a package deal to customers would wish to operate it centrally, achieving the greatest cost savings.

If a client does not want to pay for an unnecessary interview, he may refuse it. One regulation allows the authorised practitioner to supply him instead with a note of everything that would have been discussed at an inter-

view. The easy way to avoid the potential debacle would be to require only the note. The draft regulations could also be amended to require that the written notice state that commission earned by the authorised practitioner will be passed on to the client or taken into account in the charge. The Law Society argues that everyone in the conveyancing market should observe its rules that commission from matters such as life insurance should be accounted for to clients.

The law of agency requires that in the principal-agent relationship the agent must not retain commission without his principal's consent. How this applies to the complex legal relationships in a package of services is a difficult question. The government has already referred to the Law Commission the question of how statutory regulations and rules made by the Securities and Investments Board (SIB) interact with common law duties.

The Law Society requires solicitors to pass on commission earned from third parties, but this should not necessarily apply to everyone else. The situations are different and it may be of advantage to clients that one part of a package subsidises

another. The price he pays is the important factor and the regulations require that he be told, in writing, that the authorised practitioner will provide conveyances with or without other "specified services", the total cost in each case and price of each service.

But no buyer should be ignorant as to who will get the commission on any part of the package. A clear statement on this in the note should replace the unnecessary and expensive interview. If the reforms are to survive, there must not be needless rules that apply only to some of the players.

● The author, a barrister, is a former legal adviser to Lloyd's Bank

Reform rape rules

THE appellate committee of the House of Lords will hear an appeal next week by the husband who was sentenced to three years' jail for the attempted rape of his wife.

When the man's case came before the Court of Appeal in March, it led to a re-stating of the rape law that swept away husbands' centuries-old immunity from prosecution. The five judges, presided over by Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, held it was an "anachronistic and offensive fiction" that "a wife by marriage consents in advance to her husband having sexual intercourse with her whatever her state of health or however proper her objections".

Lord Lane concluded: "The time has now arrived when the law should declare that a rapist remains a rapist subject to the criminal law, irrespective of his relationship with his victim." Only in 1976, Lord Justice Lane, as he then was, had explained for the Court of Appeal that "as a general principle, there is no doubt that a husband cannot be guilty of rape upon his wife". The principle had survived broadly intact for more than 200 years. Apart from exceptions made by judges, such as where the wife had petitioned for divorce or obtained a separation order, the law had remained as stated by Chief Justice Hale in a book published in 1736: "By their mutual matrimonial consent and contract, the wife hath given up herself in this kind unto her husband which she cannot retract." In this respect, the criminal law

who at the time of the intercourse does not consent to it". The husband's argument is that the use of the word "unlawful" meant that Parliament recognised that intercourse without consent may on occasions be lawful. Parliament could only have had marriage in mind. Indeed, there is a Court of Appeal decision in 1958 interpreting "unlawful" in the Sexual Offences Act 1956 to mean "outside the bond of marriage". The draftsman of the 1976 act must be taken to have known of this precedent.

How, then, can the Lords abolish Hale's doctrine? Parliament surely did not intend to revert to Hale's absolute rule, and overrule the judge-created exceptions. So the husband has to say that the use of the word "unlawful" was intended to mean intercourse without the wife's consent was lawful except when the parties were separated or there was a court order. The Law Lords may well conclude, as did the Court of Appeal, that if Parliament had meant so to provide, it could and would have said so more clearly. Or the Law Lords might prefer to take a bolder course. There are precedents for the appellate committee rebelling against odd parliamentary draftsmanship. Last year, in a case about "sex encounter establishments", Lord Bridge recognised there is a strong presumption that every word in a statute must be given effective meaning. However, he applied the principle that, as a last resort, the courts may disregard particular words or phrases in a statute to avoid a result that is "insensible, absurd or ineffective to achieve its evident purpose". Lord Bridge there treated as "mere surplusage" the words "which are not unlawful" in the relevant statute. Hale's principle is socially unacceptable. Scottish courts have recently rejected his rule.

Hale cites no decisions to support his statement. It is no more than textbook authority. All these factors combine to justify rejection of Hale's thesis by the Law Lords.

In 1980 Lord Russell said of another example of peculiar statutory language: "This beats me." He therefore decided to "jettison the words in dispute as making no contribution" to Parliament's intention. In the circumstances, few lawyers will be troubled if the appellate committee adopts a similarly robust approach to the 1976 act and lays to rest Hale's anachronistic spirit.

● The author is a practising barrister and a fellow of All Souls College, Oxford



COUNSEL

DAVID PANNICK

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New-look Bradford

WHILE the Law Society attacks the draft rules of Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, on the entry into the conveyancing market of banks and building societies, Bradford & Bingley has introduced an all-in mortgage and conveyancing service. No, the society is not jumping the gun and providing conveyancing in-house before the regulations are in force. The idea is to use a panel of solicitors drawn by the society, who have agreed to work to a formula. This includes guaranteed prices for professional fees; updates from the solicitor to a timetable; and legal costs insurance should the sale fail through no fault of the customer.

Rights fight

THE Bar Council has set up a human rights task force. Anthony Scrivenor, QC, the Bar chairman, is concerned about the lawyers and judges throughout the world who "are at the forefront of the fight for human rights". In many countries, he says, they are imprisoned, dismissed from office or even killed because of their involvement in human rights cases. The task force will consist of experienced barristers and will be directed by the International Bar Association.

Aid for the East

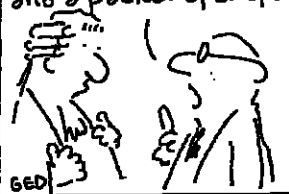
LAWYERS are also offering their services to fledgling democracies. In a formal proposal to the Foreign Office, the Law Society and the Bar

INNS AND OUTS

will offer the services of solicitors and barristers to the democracies emerging in Eastern Europe. They will suggest that any services would be paid for from the government's know-how fund, set up in 1989 to help these countries to move towards democracy and a market economy.

All-in lawyers

Two properties, one divorce, a babychem and a packet of crisps



surveyed had environmental policies, while Turkey came a poor last with 18 per cent. DRT's biggest problem was persuading German companies to give them information. The Germans refused point-blank to fill in the questionnaire. Several companies have had their fingers burnt after giving out information only to find that the enquiries came from consumer organisations, who then published the results, warts and all.

The unthinkable

THE Australian law firm Blake Dawson and Waldron, with 123 partners, is doing better in the Australian recession than many of its rivals and intends to appoint 16 new lawyers in the next financial year. At the same time, other firms are laying lawyers off. Radical management strategy may be the clue. The firm has just taken an unusual step that confirms what many law firms secretly know — that lawyers make poor managers — and has gone outside the partnership ranks for its next managing partner. Graham Bradley, from the management consultants McKenzies and Co, has been discussing strategy with the firm for the past year and from July 1 he will be running the firm's national network as the managing partner. Mr Bradley has practised as a solicitor in the past but has been with McKenzies for 12 years. The firm will also adopt a new corporate management structure involving an elected-management board chaired by the senior finance and banking lawyer David Somerville.

This structure, Mr Bradley says, would have been "unthinkable" 12 months ago.

Choice change

AWARENESS of the slings and arrows of law firm fortunes appears to be filtering down to trainee solicitors. At Linklaters & Paines newly qualifieds used to queue up at the door of the international financial department, but those qualifying in September this year have shown a marked preference for places in litigation. Of 60 September qualifiers, 32 have stated commercial litigation or intellectual property as their first choice. Ten have picked the property department, leaving only 18 for all other departments. There is no sign of redundancies at Linklaters, but trainees seem to be hedging their bets.

Justice in jail

THE idea of a museum of law has resurfaced with the news that Lancaster Castle will be closed as a prison in 1992. The announcement has been welcomed by the committee set up to promote the idea of a museum of law by Geoffrey Goldsmith, a solicitor in Reading, Berkshire. The committee had already considered the castle and won the support of Lancaster university's law department and Lancaster city council. The site would be particularly apt as the *Justice of the Peace* journal put it, Lancaster Castle has been the focus of justice in the northwest for about 900 years, as is evident in the names of some of the buildings — John o' Gaunt's Tower, Wink's Tower, King's Evidence Tower, Female Penitentiary and Execution Yard.

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Long established in the heart of London, our client is a medium-sized and distinguished firm of solicitors. It is well known for the exceptional quality of its client-base, both domestic and international, which includes firms from various sectors, as well as private companies and wealthy individuals. Despite the deflated economy, sustained buoyancy in the practice has created the following vacancies.

TAXATION - A specialist with between 2 and 5 years' relevant experience is needed to undertake a wide range of predominantly corporate tax work for our client's Commercial Department. This is a demanding position, involving regular client-contact, and a confident and outgoing personality is called for.

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL - The firm is interested in seeing experienced candidates, qualified approximately 1-4 years, to work mainly on behalf of private companies. A background in a good commercial practice is important and a command of French or German would be useful.

PROPERTY - This post will suit candidates who have qualified in the last year, or perhaps two years, and benefited from a sound training in commercial property. An assured and professional manner with clients is required.

All these appointments offer competitive salaries and genuine career prospects in a leading London practice. For further information please telephone Philip Boynton, LL.B., LL.M., on 071-405 6852 or write to him at Reuter Simkin Ltd., Recruitment Consultants, 5 Bream's Buildings, Chancery Lane, London EC4A 1DY.

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Candidates should be willing and able to take initiatives in client development and marketing, as well as having the technical skills to handle negotiations, to provide advice on and to conduct planning appeals, including advocacy.

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The Corporate Legal Department, based at the international headquarters in London, provides a full range of corporate and commercial advice, entertainment related and otherwise, associated with the diverse worldwide activities of the Company.

A further lawyer is now sought to join the team. The successful candidate will possess an excellent academic record, approximately 2 years' post-qualification experience with a first rate company/commercial background, well developed drafting and negotiation skills, a flexible and committed approach and an outgoing personality.

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For further information in complete confidence, please contact Jonathan Brenner on 071-628 0494 (081-332 0733 evenings/weekends) or write to him at Zarak Hay at Law, 6 Broad Street Place, Blomfield Street, London EC2M 7JH.

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Tactics in the Recession
In normal times, candidates made redundant would face serious obstacles. They would encounter the presumption that there was something wrong with them. They would have to be very careful about the kind of job they took. A locum job, for instance, would damage their credibility. A job of lower status or at a lower salary would make it difficult for them to climb back to their former position. For good reason, candidates preferred to remain unemployed than to take anything which would not look right on their CV.

Today, the logic has changed. Redundancy is no longer a cause for embarrassment. Taking a lower salary, or working as a locum, requires no explanation. It is understood that candidates of the highest calibre can find themselves unemployed through no fault of their own, and that they will be justified in taking a job which in normal circumstances they would not even look at. Everyone appreciates that it is better to be working than to remain at home unemployed. Far from being a stigma, redundancy can give candidates an advantage. In several cases recently, redundant candidates have been taken on in preference to candidates in employment because they were available immediately. It is also becoming common for candidates to take a position as a locum with a view to going permanent. They can assess the job from the inside, and stay on if they like it. If they leave, it was just another locum position tidying them through the recession. Candidates are becoming far more flexible. They are more concerned about actually working than about immediate career advancement.

Michael Chambers

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c £30,000 package
Commercial lawyer with at least 5 years' experience to handle international contracts in well-known engineering company.

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Medium-large sized City firm of solicitors with thriving banking department seeks solicitor with about 2-4 years' banking experience.

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COMMERCIAL LAWYER: LONDON

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Commercial lawyer, late 20s, with sense of humour and excellent interpersonal skills to join small legal dept of major public company.

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c £30,000 + car
Solicitor with commercial experience to join well-known leasing company to handle a wide range of company and commercial matters.

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LONDON

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Pensions Law: City

(1) NQ-3 yrs qual, & (2) partner designate, for flourishing pensions & emp. benefits practice.

Corporate Finance: City

2-4 yrs qual, for leading med-sized firm to handle public co work. Excellent prospects.

Corporate Tax: City

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General Commercial Litigation: City

2-3 yrs qual to join med-sized firm handling interesting work for UK and international clients.

Intellectual Property Lawyer: City

2-5 yrs qual IP solicitor to handle lit & non-lit IP work including patents, TMs, and computer-related work.

PROVINCES

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Leading commercial firm seeks senior corporate lawyer with heavyweight experience. Prospects.

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Ambitious solicitor with broad commercial litigation expertise for successful Hants firm.

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Commercial Property: Birmingham
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Pensions: Midlands
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CORPORATE/COMMERCIAL c. £50,000
International British Pte based in London. Small expanding legal department is an integral part of management team. M&A, heavyweight corporate, financial and general commercial matters. Solicitors with at least 3 years' PQE. Excellent prospects.

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL ££Excellent
Dynamic blue-chip multi-national seeks additional lawyers for its expanding legal department. Solicitor sought with 2-4 years' City experience to handle a broad range of corporate/commercial work.

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Major international company, operations worldwide. Small high profile legal team. General company/commercial work with European flavour. Lawyer with at least 3 years' PQE International travel. French language skills essential. Salary up to £30,000 plus car and other benefits.

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Highly respected City practice. Blue-chip client base. Active, expanding construction department. Seeks solicitor or barrister up to 4 years qualified. Must be bright, ambitious and enjoy client contact. Work heavily biased towards contentious matters.

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With the opening up of Eastern European markets, we are seeking a Legal Adviser to take charge of a new regional office in Warsaw with responsibility for anti-piracy enforcement and developing the rights of record companies generally in Poland and neighbouring countries.

Candidates should have a professional legal qualification and experience of intellectual property law enforcement. An ability to work effectively in Polish and other Eastern European languages would be a distinct advantage.

Benefits will include free accommodation and a company car.

Applicants should write in confidence with full career details to: The Director General, IFPI Secretariat, 54 Regent Street, London W1R 5PJ.

The closing date for applications is 12th July 1991.

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Our increasing workload means there is an exciting opportunity for a commercial litigator to join the team at Norton, Rose, & Leach.

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All solicitors have the right to call themselves specialists, but can the public trust such claims? Henry Witcomb reports

Victims of self-styled experts



Critical: John Lambert sued a string of solicitors before getting his compensation

John Lambert, a former airline pilot, was awarded damages of £1,571,282 less than a year ago after being paralysed from the chest down in a road accident.

Hidden behind the headlines, however, was a nine-year compensation battle during which Mr Lambert was forced to sue a string of solicitors before finding a firm that was able to prosecute his case successfully.

His experience has left him highly critical of the legal profession. He says: "If the level of professionalism among pilots was anything like that of some of the solicitors I have encountered, there would be pieces of aeroplanes scattered all over the countryside."

Mr Lambert's case is only the latest in a long line of similar high-profile incidents that has left the Law Society wriggling on an awkward hook.

The solution seems to be simple enough: the establishment of specialist panels of medical negligence and personal injury lawyers, whose selection would be based on objective tests of competence and experience, and whose performance, once selected, would be reviewed regularly.

The public would then be able to identify at a glance the solicitors who are capable of conducting their compensation claims.

The Law Society has chosen a more complicated course of action. Last July, the society's governing body approved amendments to the profession's publicity code dealing with solicitors' claims to specialisation and particular

expertise. Paragraph 2(b) of the code states innocuously: "It is not improper for a claim to be made that a solicitor is a specialist in a particular field, provided that such a claim can be justified."

The sting, however, is in the tail, where the code says: "The onus of deciding whether such a claim can be justified is on the solicitor or firm making the claim."

The move has been roundly criticised by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, who asked in a speech

'What reliance can a member of the public place on a solicitor's specialist knowledge if there is no external assessment?'

last January: "How is the public to know whether a solicitor's subjective judgment on this matter is valid or not? What reliance can a member of the public place on a solicitor's subjective judgment on this matter? What reliance can a member of the public place on a solicitor's specialist knowledge if there is no external assessment of this?"

Most damningly, he has attacked the change as possibly misleading the public. Against this background, the Law Society has launched

two consultation papers recommending that panels of specialist lawyers in the medical negligence and personal injury fields be formed.

The proposals contain detailed options for reform, covering the level of knowledge, experience and professional skills to be attained, and the methods of assessment, ranging from references and interviews to written tests and case file inspections, that may be used.

The proposals represent a well thought-out package, which would go a long way to meeting the objective in the government's green paper on the work and organisation of the legal profession, of giving the public "an easier and more informed choice of practitioners who, they can be assured, are skilled in a particular field of law".

This aim has been endorsed by the Law Society's specialisation committee, which, by coincidence, helped to prepare the publicity code of practice — at best a case of the right hand seemingly not knowing what the left hand is doing.

The public will now be left with the unenviable task of fathoming out the distinction between lawyers who are members of a specialist panel and those who are self-proclaimed specialists.

The result is only too predictable. Confusion will reign, unless, of course, the Law Society chooses to abolish the right of solicitors to call themselves specialists and, by doing so, prove that its concern for the consumer is not, after all, skin deep.

The author is a member of the Citizen Action Compensation Campaign

Law firms that are kicking themselves

Dropping private client work was one of the marks of macho management among law firms in the Eighties. Firms wanting to show they were serious about the corporate client felt there was something rather *infelicitous* about offering a conveyancing service. "We have stopped doing private client work because no private client could afford us," was the fashionable explanation given by a number of big firms as they "de-emphasised" — the term at the time — the role of private client partners.

Theodore Goddard, a firm whose involvement with the affairs of Edward VIII once made it the most famous private client firm of all, now gets just 4 per cent of its income from private client work, and there is an expectation that it will shrink still further.

Cameron Markby Hewitt, in common with many others, finished with private client work in January 1989 when the three partners who dealt with it moved across to Payne Hicks Beach. Bill Shelford, the then management partner, says: "The decision to move our private client interests reflects a concentration on our core activity of providing legal services to the businesses and financial sectors."

Have firms been wise to drop such work? Since the contraction in mergers and acquisitions work and in commercial property, many solicitors with big firms have time on their hands. Private client work has, meanwhile, maintained its constant flow.

Macfarlanes is the biggest firm with a strong commitment to the private client. Just under 20 per

cent of its billing still comes from that source. Seven partners are committed to the work, backed by a further 23 fee-earners. As well as providing legal advice, Macfarlanes runs almost 700 trusts.

The firm describes most of its private clients as being of "high net worth". What this means, John Rhodes, a partner, says, is that they have no trouble in paying the firm's bills. "The only thing we will not do is divorce work," Mr Rhodes says.

Most of the work comes from recommendations and the firm often finds that once a personal relationship has been established with the client over their private affairs, commercial work follows.

The continuing success of this part of its practice and its ability to bring in fees proportionate to its size has left Mr Rhodes puzzled by the way other big firms have let the work wither. In many cases, there seems to have been a collective loss of will by private client partners and a failure to promote themselves internally. They have fallen into the trap of believing that work for the private client is either old-fashioned or fuddy-duddy and have let slip a significant money earner.

Mr Rhodes says: "We make sure that our colleagues are aware of our successes and the size of the jobs we are bringing in, especially when they lead to work for other parts of the firm."

For the firms that dropped their private client work over the past five years, it is probably too late to resume it. No doubt, however, they are kicking themselves for having done so.

EDWARD FENNELL



John Rhodes: bills can be easily paid

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A challenging and stimulating workload will include mergers and acquisitions, Stock Exchange and securities work, corporate and tax structuring, general banking and financing transactions including lease financing, bonds, loans, syndications and off-shore financing.

To reflect the importance attached to this position, the successful applicant will be offered a highly attractive salary and benefits package together with excellent partnership prospects.

For further information, please contact Stephen Rodney or Gareth Quarry on 071-405 6062 (071-354 3079 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 9 Brownlow Street, London WC1V 6JD.



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This senior role will involve the successful candidate in working closely with the partners and staff throughout the firm to establish and develop the marketing function. This is a challenging and exciting opportunity to fulfill a key position which includes not only formulating but also implementing marketing strategies, identifying business development opportunities, co-ordinating the firm's marketing initiatives and developing supporting information systems.

Aged not less than 30, the successful candidate will be educated to degree level with at least 5 years' business to business marketing experience in a service industry. The candidate should also have worked for a partnership. Of fundamental importance will be a strong, self-motivated personality and excellent communication skills, together with the ability to succeed in this dynamic and stimulating environment.

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For further information in complete confidence please contact Danielle Ross on 071-405 6062 (081-444 1293 evenings/weekends) or write to her at Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 9 Brownlow Street, London WC1V 6JD.



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Applications are invited for a Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Law in the Faculty of Law. The position arises consequent upon the appointment of Professor J. Evans to a Chair in Law and is additional to those positions already advertised in the Faculty under Vacancy UAC-38. Applicants for positions under this vacancy need not re-apply. The Faculty of Law particularly encourages applications from women and Maori applicants.

A higher degree in Law is normally required for appointment. In the case of an applicant for a Senior Lectureship, academic experience and publications will normally be required. Applications from persons with research and teaching interests in any area of law will be entertained. The Faculty is interested in law graduates from a variety of backgrounds. The successful applicant will be required to teach at all levels and to undertake research.

Commencing salary will be established within the range NZ\$37,440 - NZ\$49,088 per annum for Lecturers, or NZ\$52,000 - NZ\$60,944 per annum for Senior Lecturers.

Conditions of Appointment and Method of Application are available from the Department of Law, 36 Gordon Street, Auckland. Applications should be sent to the Assistant Registrar (Academic), WCHS OFF, or from the Assistant Registrar (Academic), WCHS OFF, University of Auckland, Private Bag, Auckland, New Zealand, to whom applications should be forwarded by 16 August 1991.

Please quote vacancy number UAC-42 in all correspondence.

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- Deepen your understanding of the growing body of domestic law which originates in Europe

Applications are invited now for January 1992 entry. For further details, course brochure and application form please contact:

Jon Tandy, Course Administrator, International Centre, Room 1.9 Picketing Johnson Building, University of Leicester, Leicester LE1 7RH. Tel: (0533) 32346. Cables outside U.K. code 44-533. Fax: (0533) 32200.



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Commercial Industry Nationwide

HERTS. This high profile group currently requires a solicitor with circa 5 years' experience to undertake international commercial work.

LONDON COMMERCIAL LAWYER

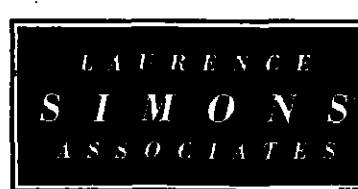
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Please telephone Shona McDougall, Patrick Aford or Rosa Hellewell on 071-831 3270 (071-483 1899 evenings/weekends) or write to: Laurence Simons Associates, 33 John's Wells, London WC1N 2NS. Fax: 071-831 4429.

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We are looking for an ambitious lawyer to join the pensions side of our expanding Employee Benefits Group. The work of the Group involves providing specialist advice of the highest quality on all aspects of UK and international employee benefits to companies, trustees and insurance companies and other providers.

Candidates will have at least 3 years' experience in pensions and employee benefits, will be highly motivated, be able to work under pressure, be academically well qualified and have exceptional powers to communicate complex issues to clients and others. An ability to make effective presentations will also be desirable.

The career prospects, salary and benefits are excellent.

If you are interested, please apply with a full CV to: John Cunliffe, McKenna & Co, Mitre House, 160 Aldersgate Street, London EC1A 4DD. Tel: 071-606 9000

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ZARAK
HAY
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For further information in complete confidence please contact Jonathan Macrae on 071-628 0494 (081-672 8340 evenings/weekends) or write to him at Zarak Hay at Law, 6 Broad Street Place, Blomfield Street, London EC2M 7JH.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY PARTNER TO £100,000

Our Client is a rapidly expanding Central London law firm with a thriving commercial practice embracing high calibre commercial, corporate, litigation and property work.

Currently acting for a diverse range of clients, both UK and overseas, including banks and other institutions, local authorities and developers, the firm's Property Department advises across an extremely broad spread of commercial property law. Despite the current climate, it is ready to embark on the next stage of its growth in this area.

Highly profitable, with a well-balanced client base and investing heavily for future growth, the firm is ideally poised for expansion. An additional property partner or team is now sought. Candidates should have substantial commercial property experience, proven practice development and management skills, and be capable of taking a leading role in the department and firm as a whole.

For the right candidate the partnership package will be substantial, reflecting the importance attached to this appointment.

For further information in complete confidence, please contact Alistair Dougall on 071-405 6062 (071-831 0030 evenings/weekends) or write to him at Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 9 Brownlow Street, London WC1V 6JD.

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Grim message in the trade deficit

COMMENT

The official figures on Britain's current account deficit have become a joke lately, because of the massive revisions in the estimates of invisible exports. But the old-fashioned figures on Britain's visible exports and imports remain as meaningful as ever and if the City and the Treasury choose to ignore them, they will be doing so at their peril.

Yesterday's announcement that the visible trade deficit had jumped from £837 million in April to £923 million in May was the kind of news that Britain should have been spared in the midst of the present recession. The government's oft-cited medium-term policy rule about aiming for a balanced budget over the course of an economic cycle is equally applicable to the trade account — a deficit is perfectly acceptable at the height of an economic boom, but if the country is to avoid going ever deeper into debt to foreigners, these boomtime deficits ought to be balanced by surpluses in periods of recession. The fact that Britain is nowhere near balancing imports against exports, even at a

time when domestic consumption and investment are collapsing while the German market is sucking in imports as never before, is prima facie evidence that sterling is overvalued.

Of course, the visible trade deficit is mitigated in Britain by invisible earnings from insurance, tourism and other services. But international competitiveness in selling these services is governed by many of the same factors — productivity, entrepreneurship and a reasonably valued currency — as the ability to compete in manufactures. And judging by Britain's visible trade performance, that is not good news.

WPP punters

There was precious little good news for shareholders at the annual meeting of Martin Sorrell's debt-laden advertising

group WPP. The first-quarter budget proved too ambitious for WPP's managers to meet in the face of recession both here and across the Atlantic. Though operating costs have been squeezed, income is falling even faster. After a couple of months, the second-quarter budget is also in danger of a shortfall in actual profit.

It was left therefore to the powerful American fund management group Fidelity to intrigue the market by disclosing an 18 per cent holding in WPP shares, apparently for the first time. Fully diluted, the stake may amount to more than 20 per cent of WPP's equity. The holding appears to be well spread among perhaps 40 Fidelity funds, suggesting that WPP shares have been identified as a highly attractive long-term recovery

play.

Analysts were stressing the long-term nature of Fidelity's view. Put another way, it is hard to see an improvement in the group's fortunes on any other timescale given WPP's assertion that there will be no changes to the structure of the group. Within the top operating companies, J Walter Thompson, Ogilvy & Mather, and Hill and Knowlton, there should be, one would think, some highly saleable assets. But since this option has been apparently ruled out, WPP has but a couple of choices for improving its finances. The first, a rights issue, would be heavily dilutive and doubtless provoke cries of pain for those investors who have decided to sweat it out. The second, trading out of a trouble, is a long haul. Mr Sorrell won a breathing space until 1993

when he restructured the debts during the spring. But the date must loom uncomfortably large in WPP's calendar. Though the new agreements consolidated existing working capital and other unused facilities into an enlarged working capital limit of \$280 million, this has to be refinanced or repaid by mid-1993. In that year, another \$600 million of debt becomes due for repayment over four years.

Fidelity's punt on WPP may look clever in three or four years. Others should hesitate before deciding WPP is out of the financial woods.

Davy hopes

It may be too early for Davy shareholders to breathe a sigh of relief after last week's appalling losses. Rarely can a company have issued such a damning statement about its trading prospects without also

concluding that the appointment of receivers was inevitable.

However, news that the German group Mannesmann is looking at the portfolio of Davy assets up for sale affords some prospect that the breakup plan may yet yield more for shareholders than the appointment of a receiver.

It is unlikely that the French group Spie Batignole, currently sitting on a 15 per cent holding in Davy, will stand idly by while the Germans take their pick. Trafalgar House is another potential buyer, but certainly not of the whole group. Analysts reckon that there is valuable technology in Davy's metals division that its competitors would be happy to take on board at the right price.

Davy shares leapt 11p yesterday to 62p, reflecting the possibility of an auction. This is way below the group's breakup value, which some put at close on 120p per share. There is likely to be many a slip on the road towards a happy ending for Davy's long suffering shareholders. But this is not the time to sell the shares.

Big fish cast out of Japan's muddled corporate pond

RARE orange-and-white carp swim in the ornamental pond at the discreet villa in Kyoto where executives of Nomura, the securities group, entertain important guests. Renowned for their longevity, some of the carp have been there since the villa was built by Tokushichi Nomura, the son of an Osaka money-changer who in 1925 founded what is now the world's largest stockbroker.

The carp have now survived another leader of the company, the seventh in the house of Nomura's epic, dynastic history. Yoshihisa Tabuchi, the president of Nomura, was at the villa only eight weeks ago entertaining a group of British journalists. The delicacy and expense of the lunch was outdone only by the display of traditional Japanese dancing that preceded it. He wanted the journalists to get the best possible impression of the company, Japanese securities houses and Japan itself cultured, wealthy, exquisitely tasteful, confident, powerful.

Yesterday, Mr Tabuchi resigned as Nomura's president and chief executive. Following him hours later was his opposite number at Nikko Securities, Takuya Iwasaki. Heads may roll, too, at Yamaichi and Daiwa, the other two of the big four Japanese securities houses.

Tabuchi and Iwasaki have each thrown themselves on their corporate swords after allegations of unfair paybacks to large clients and of links between the country's top brokerage companies and Japanese crime syndicates.

Both Nomura and Nikko have denied any illegality. Both Tabuchi and Iwasaki yesterday apologised for a series of incidents which they said had damaged the public standing of securities companies and of the Japanese stock market. The two men are stepping down on Thursday.

The latest financial scandal is plunging Japanese stockbroking into a crisis of confidence: the Tokyo stock market plummeted on the news of Tabuchi's resignation. With the dominance of Japan in the world economy, the big four broking houses have become extraordinarily strong financial forces both within Japan and outside it.

Nomura is the largest. Though net profits in the year



Ears burning: Yoshihisa Tabuchi at his resignation press conference yesterday

to March were down sharply, in line with the 47 per cent fall in the Japanese stock market, they still stood at ¥105 billion (£438 million). The company and its senior officials exude power.

In his official residence, seated beneath subtly lit post-Impressionist paintings, Nomura's chairman, Setsuya Tabuchi ("Big Tabuchi" in Nomura, as opposed to the resigning president, "Little Tabuchi") can discourse with studied casualness and believable confidence not only on

Japanese air crash in August 1985, the loss of face was too great to be borne.

Japan is no stranger to scandals, financial or political — and often the two are intertwined. The Recruit scandal, which broke three years ago over shares given by the Recruit employment agency to more than 150 politicians, civil servants and businessmen, still reverberates. This is not surprising given that it toppled the then-prime minister, his deputy, a clutch of other ministers and the chair-

man of Nippon Telephone and Telegraph.

As measured by its international resonance, the row which has so far claimed the heads of Nomura and Nikko is the largest since Recruit. Their standing worsened by early denials of the first newspaper allegations, the two companies eventually admitted that they had bought memberships of a golf club controlled by Inagawaki, one of Japan's largest organisations of yakuza, or gangsters. Nikko now acknowledges it knew it was dealing with gangsters. Nomura insists it did not.

Under heavy pressure from Japan's finance ministry, both

Nomura and Nikko have now admitted, though, that they compensated favoured clients for trading losses. Nomura by a total of ¥16.5 billion, Nikko by as much as ¥19 billion. Tax officials in Tokyo are now claiming that both Daiwa and Yamaichi are also involved, and that the total sums for the big four could run to more than ¥65 billion.

None of this is actually illegal in Japan. Indeed, it is common, and is within the law, though heavily frowned upon by the ministry. But the acknowledgement by all four major houses of selective support for large investors will do nothing to increase confidence in the big four or the stock market itself, especially among the smaller investors that the Tokyo stock exchange is so keen to woo.

Once unpicked by a press often regarded as too uncritical of the country's business, financial scandals in Japan tend to have a very long life, to take few prisoners, and to see numbers of people dispatched. The securities houses' golf-club-and-paybacks scandal (it has yet to attract the catch-all name such rows usually generate) looks to have a good deal of life in it yet.

The carp in a number of Japanese corporate ponds look likely to outlast the corporate lives of quite a few more Japanese business leaders.

PHILIP BASSETT

Tabuchi and Iwasaki have each thrown themselves on their corporate swords

who will be the next Japanese prime minister, but when the forecasts a change of leader in November. When the company wants other people, let alone anyone from Nomura itself, to meet Japan's finance minister, or the president of the Tokyo stock exchange, or the head of the Bank of Japan, or Toyota's president, they do.

With a corporate reputation on that scale, the kind of criticism Nomura has had in Japan since the end of last week in effect forced Tabuchi to go, regardless of whether the company accepted there was any foundation for it.

Like the head of Japan Air Lines, who resigned after the

Slump spoils Gestetner picture

TEMPUS

IN THE current economic climate camera equipment does not appear on many people's shopping lists, as Gestetner Holdings, the office equipment and photographic distributor, has painfully discovered.

Pre-tax profits in the six months to end-April rose only marginally to £21.7 million as the company found itself significantly over exposed to the ailing photographic market, thanks to its £71 million purchase of Hanimec two years ago.

Trading profits from the photographic division lost 70 per cent to £1.8 million as the company's four biggest markets — Britain, America, Australia and New Zealand — went into recession at the same time.

By contrast, the far larger office systems division fared better, although the advance in trading profits from £26.7 million to £31.4 million is largely due to the fact that Gestetner's other big buy, last year's £91 million purchase of the non-American businesses of Nashua, is working out

rather better than Hanimec.

The realisation that on the office systems side at least, Gestetner is doing as well as could be expected, together with a signal of better times ahead from Basil Sellers, the chairman, helped lift the shares 10p to 168p. A modest increase in interim dividend to 1.8p (1.7p) dispelled the gloom further.

The company certainly appears to be making all the right moves. Employee numbers have been cut by 490 to about 1,100, with a further 350 to come. Associated costs of £3 million in the first half will be repeated in the second half, but from then on should drop out of the reckoning.

Stock levels are on their way down, which, together with a tighter control on debtors, should result in net borrowings falling from an interim level of £77 million (which gives gearing of 45 per cent) to less than £20 million by the year-end.

Profits of £44 million look possible for this year. But at 168p, a price-earnings multiple of only eight is a reminder of the risk involved. Not one to rush into.

Airtours

STOCK market history is littered with high-flying package holiday companies that plunged spectacularly to earth, but investors still have an appetite for the shares. So it proved in April, when Airtours had little problem in raising £15.9 million of equity in the wake of the collapse of International Leisure Group. Airtours, which has checked in with interim results showing customary winter losses, is still banging the same drum, of the opportunities provided by the removal of the number two player in the market.

It is a convincing tale. Summer bookings are up 60 per cent on last year, in a market acknowledged to have narrowed 10 per cent, and half

of the new holiday-makers appear to have been Intasun customers. Airtours expects to fly 1.1 million people to the sunshine this summer. Analysts believe this will convert into annual profits of £13.2 million, a whopping increase on last year's £4.36 million.

The interim figures lend some support to the idea. Trading losses are more than halved at £3.69 million, after a 77 per cent surge in winter passengers, despite the Gulf war, an increase in margins, and strong, early summer bookings. However, start-up costs of the airline offshoot have mopped up another £2.5 million.

Airtours claims 13 per cent of the package holiday market, while its EuroSites self-drive camping business is expected to make a profit contribution this year. The shares have taken off since ILC folded, from 150p to yesterday's 469p, at which level they pay for just over nine years' earnings, and still look good value for those who believe lightning cannot strike a fifth or sixth time.

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Undoubtedly, Euromobiliare SpA, based in Milan, is Italian, and in 1990 it once again completed the largest number of M & A deals in Italy.

It is one of the most active trading houses in Italian equities, warrants and convertible bonds, with volume last year of Lit 4,500 billion. Recently Euromobiliare lead managed, with Samuel Montagu, a Lit 100 billion, 5 year bond issue for Landesbank Baden-Württemberg. And Euromobiliare's sophisticated research department is considered to be one of the most experienced and informed throughout the international financial community.

In the past five years Euromobiliare has successfully completed over 100 domestic and cross border deals with a value of over Lit 1500 billion.

Yet Euromobiliare is also part of Midland Group's merchant banking network, brought together under Midland Montagu, with Samuel Montagu being the focus in the UK. It facilitates such cross border transactions as advising in the sale of Sodolco's detergent business, Lavasbianca, to Reckitt & Colman.

It's just one example of the power of our network. So if you're looking for cross border business opportunities, think of our strength in Europe.



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- MIDLAND BANK plc Athens
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- MIDLAND MONTAGU OSAREPANKKI Helsinki
- MIDLAND BANK A.S. Istanbul
- MIDLAND MONTAGU FININTER S.A. Lisbon
- SAMUEL MONTAGU & CO. LIMITED London
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- EUROMOBILIARE SpA Milan
- MIDLAND MONTAGU A.S. Oslo
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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Rogerson goes OTC

JOHN Rogerson, the former junior England squash player and old Harrovian who left James Capel in November, has taken up over-the-counter broking. Rogerson, aged 25, who worked on the Life team at James Capel, has joined the Mayflower Group, which specialises in OTC work. Since leaving Capel, Rogerson has been working on corporate hospitality for Keith Prowse. He has just returned from a "heavenly" two-week break in Barbados with Adam Sangster, an old school chum and former colleague at Capel.

Classic scam

ONE of the few classic cars not heading across Europe in the

annual Piorelli race comes up for auction at Coys of Kensington tomorrow. The 3.5 litre Bentley, which is expected to fetch at least £160,000, has a place in banking folklore. It was built in 1935 for a director of Banque de Paris who, six years later, used the car to outwit Hitler. The bank's platinum bullion reserves were hidden under the floorboards of the car and driven over the Pyrenees into Spain before finding a safe haven in Portugal. The car returned to Britain in 1974 and was rebuilt.

Kafka presses on

PAUL Kafka, former head of corporate communications at Security Pacific Hoare Govett, has re-emerged in Manchester where he is to head the press team at Norweg, the regional

electricity company. Kafka, aged 35, left SecPac in January. "There is a lot wider scope than my previous job and I will be staying in touch with the City," says Kafka, who commutes weekly between his new office and his home in Richmond, Surrey.

Silly money

WASHINGTON pressure groups are inundating President Bush with protest letters about money-wasting. They have drawn attention to several cash grants from the government which, they insist, are ridiculous. The grants include: \$50,000 for research to find out whether American and Mexican Leopard frogs are sexually compatible; \$47,000 to find out if pregnant fleas can hop as far as non-pregnant ones; \$37,000 to

determine how many eyelashes the average person loses in a day, and \$71,000 to find out whether blonde or brunette prostitutes attract more customers.

Double trouble

LIFE as a solicitor in Poland has its trials. Michael Davies, resident partner of Nabarro Nathanson, has been advising the Polish government on privatisation. He has also been scouring shops in Warsaw for a double bed for Derek Sendrove, a fellow partner, who was due in Poland with his Russian-born wife. Davies believes the abundance of small-roomed flats in Poland is to blame for the shortage. He has, however, tracked down some Lithuanian double sheets.

JON ASHWORTH

THE TIMES TUESDAY JUNE 25 1991

WORLD MARKETS

ons prompt Tokyo
s to flee market

Today, a clear of
morning's trading
day, and the market
was largely a
trade in the
Asian market.

The Hong Kong
market was
closed today
due to the
celebration of
the 10th anniversary
of the handover of
the territory to
China.

WALL STREET

Dow slides 34 points

After a volatile
start, the Dow
Jones Industrial
Average fell 34
points to 2,814.50.
The S&P 500
index fell 1.14
points to 225.12.
The Nasdaq
index fell 1.14
points to 1,111.12.

Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Close	Low	High
1	Marshall	Water	1.10	1.05	1.15
2	Shell (A)	Industrials L-R	1.10	1.05	1.15
3	Mersey	Building Roads	1.10	1.05	1.15
4	Johnson	Industrials S-Z	1.10	1.05	1.15
5	Scotmid	Industrials S-Z	1.10	1.05	1.15
6	Alphacorp	Food	1.10	1.05	1.15
7	London Elect	Electricity	1.10	1.05	1.15
8	General Nat	Banking	1.10	1.05	1.15
9	Red Int	Navigation Pub	1.10	1.05	1.15
10	Spyglass	Property	1.10	1.05	1.15
11	Lap	Transport	1.10	1.05	1.15
12	CRB	Building Roads	1.10	1.05	1.15
13	Blue Circle	Building Roads	1.10	1.05	1.15
14	Avon Rubber	Industrials A-D	1.10	1.05	1.15
15	Yorkshire Water	Water	1.10	1.05	1.15
16	THORN EMI	Electronics	1.10	1.05	1.15
17	Brit	Building Roads	1.10	1.05	1.15
18	Be Vista	Industrials A-D	1.10	1.05	1.15
19	Woodward	Industrials L-R	1.10	1.05	1.15
20	British Waller	Industrials L-R	1.10	1.05	1.15
21	Roadhouse	Property	1.10	1.05	1.15
22	Br Borneo	Oil Gas	1.10	1.05	1.15
23	Abbey National	Banking	1.10	1.05	1.15
24	Gay Elect	Electronics	1.10	1.05	1.15
25	Thornson	Food	1.10	1.05	1.15
26	Bulldog	Industrials A-D	1.10	1.05	1.15
27	Br Aerospace	Motor, Aircraft	1.10	1.05	1.15
28	British Match	Industrials E-K	1.10	1.05	1.15
29	BOC	Industrials A-D	1.10	1.05	1.15
30	Life Sciences	Industrials A-D	1.10	1.05	1.15
31	Wimsey G	Building Roads	1.10	1.05	1.15
32	De La Rue	Industrials A-D	1.10	1.05	1.15
33	Ge Portland	Property	1.10	1.05	1.15
34	New Int	Navigation Pub	1.10	1.05	1.15
35	Pirellion	Industrials E-K	1.10	1.05	1.15
36	Tarmac	Building Roads	1.10	1.05	1.15
37	Wolsey	Industrials S-Z	1.10	1.05	1.15
38	Sead Chart	Banking	1.10	1.05	1.15
39	ICI Int	Industrials A-D	1.10	1.05	1.15
40	British Rice	Food	1.10	1.05	1.15
41	Adrian Rice	Food	1.10	1.05	1.15
42	Exp Corp London	Oil Gas	1.10	1.05	1.15
43	Smith Wm A	Property	1.10	1.05	1.15
44	UK Land	Property	1.10	1.05	1.15

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Sunday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

Three readers shared the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Marjorie Holtham, of Sevenoaks, Kent; John Williams, of Ingatstone, Essex; and Richard Harries, of Sandstead, Surrey, each receive £666.66.

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

Company	Price	Change	%
Marshall	1.10	0.05	4.5
Shell (A)	1.10	0.05	4.5
Mersey	1.10	0.05	4.5
Johnson	1.10	0.05	4.5
Scotmid	1.10	0.05	4.5
Alphacorp	1.10	0.05	4.5
London Elect	1.10	0.05	4.5
General Nat	1.10	0.05	4.5
Red Int	1.10	0.05	4.5
Spyglass	1.10	0.05	4.5
Lap	1.10	0.05	4.5
CRB	1.10	0.05	4.5
Blue Circle	1.10	0.05	4.5
Avon Rubber	1.10	0.05	4.5
Yorkshire Water	1.10	0.05	4.5
THORN EMI	1.10	0.05	4.5
Brit	1.10	0.05	4.5
Be Vista	1.10	0.05	4.5
Woodward	1.10	0.05	4.5
British Waller	1.10	0.05	4.5
Roadhouse	1.10	0.05	4.5
Br Borneo	1.10	0.05	4.5
Abbey National	1.10	0.05	4.5
Gay Elect	1.10	0.05	4.5
Thornson	1.10	0.05	4.5
Bulldog	1.10	0.05	4.5
Br Aerospace	1.10	0.05	4.5
British Match	1.10	0.05	4.5
BOC	1.10	0.05	4.5
Life Sciences	1.10	0.05	4.5
Wimsey G	1.10	0.05	4.5
De La Rue	1.10	0.05	4.5
Ge Portland	1.10	0.05	4.5
New Int	1.10	0.05	4.5
Pirellion	1.10	0.05	4.5
Tarmac	1.10	0.05	4.5
Wolsey	1.10	0.05	4.5
Sead Chart	1.10	0.05	4.5
ICI Int	1.10	0.05	4.5
British Rice	1.10	0.05	4.5
Adrian Rice	1.10	0.05	4.5
Exp Corp London	1.10	0.05	4.5
Smith Wm A	1.10	0.05	4.5
UK Land	1.10	0.05	4.5

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Company	Price	Change	%
Marshall	1.10	0.05	4.5
Shell (A)	1.10	0.05	4.5
Mersey	1.10	0.05	4.5
Johnson	1.10	0.05	4.5
Scotmid	1.10	0.05	4.5
Alphacorp	1.10	0.05	4.5
London Elect	1.10	0.05	4.5
General Nat	1.10	0.05	4.5
Red Int	1.10	0.05	4.5
Spyglass	1.10	0.05	4.5
Lap	1.10	0.05	4.5
CRB	1.10	0.05	4.5
Blue Circle	1.10	0.05	4.5
Avon Rubber	1.10	0.05	4.5
Yorkshire Water	1.10	0.05	4.5
THORN EMI	1.10	0.05	4.5
Brit	1.10	0.05	4.5
Be Vista	1.10	0.05	4.5
Woodward	1.10	0.05	4.5
British Waller	1.10	0.05	4.5
Roadhouse	1.10	0.05	4.5
Br Borneo	1.10	0.05	4.5
Abbey National	1.10	0.05	4.5
Gay Elect	1.10	0.05	4.5
Thornson	1.10	0.05	4.5
Bulldog	1.10	0.05	4.5
Br Aerospace	1.10	0.05	4.5
British Match	1.10	0.05	4.5
BOC	1.10	0.05	4.5
Life Sciences	1.10	0.05	4.5
Wimsey G	1.10	0.05	4.5
De La Rue	1.10	0.05	4.5
Ge Portland	1.10	0.05	4.5
New Int	1.10	0.05	4.5
Pirellion	1.10	0.05	4.5
Tarmac	1.10	0.05	4.5
Wolsey	1.10	0.05	4.5
Sead Chart	1.10	0.05	4.5
ICI Int	1.10	0.05	4.5
British Rice	1.10	0.05	4.5
Adrian Rice	1.10	0.05	4.5
Exp Corp London	1.10	0.05	4.5
Smith Wm A	1.10	0.05	4.5
UK Land	1.10	0.05	4.5

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Company	Price	Change	%
Marshall	1.10	0.05	4.5
Shell (A)	1.10	0.05	4.5
Mersey	1.10	0.05	4.5
Johnson	1.10	0.05	4.5
Scotmid	1.10	0.05	4.5
Alphacorp	1.10	0.05	4.5
London Elect	1.10	0.05	4.5
General Nat	1.10	0.05	4.5
Red Int	1.10	0.05	4.5
Spyglass	1.10	0.05	4.5
Lap	1.10	0.05	4.5
CRB	1.10	0.05	4.5
Blue Circle	1.10	0.05	4.5
Avon Rubber	1.10	0.05	4.5
Yorkshire Water	1.10	0.05	4.5
THORN EMI	1.10	0.05	4.5
Brit	1.10	0.05	4.5
Be Vista	1.10	0.05	4.5
Woodward	1.10	0.05	4.5
British Waller	1.10	0.05	4.5
Roadhouse	1.10	0.05	4.5
Br Borneo	1.10	0.05	4.5
Abbey National	1.10	0.05	4.5
Gay Elect	1.10	0.05	4.5
Thornson	1.10	0.05	4.5
Bulldog	1.10	0.05	4.5
Br Aerospace	1.10	0.05	4.5
British Match	1.10	0.05	4.5
BOC	1.10	0.05	4.5
Life Sciences	1.10	0.05	4.5
Wimsey G	1.10	0.05	4.5
De La Rue	1.10	0.05	4.5
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Exp Corp London	1.10	0.05	4.5
Smith Wm A	1.10	0.05	4.5
UK Land	1.10	0.05	4.5

UNDATED

Company	Price	Change	%
Marshall	1.10	0.05	4.5
Shell (A)	1.10	0.05	4.5
Mersey	1.10	0.05	4.5
Johnson	1.10	0.05	4.5
Scotmid	1.10	0.05	4.5
Alphacorp	1.10	0.05	4.5
London Elect	1.10	0.05	4.5
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Blue Circle	1.10	0.05	4.5
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INDEX-LINKED

Company	Price	Change	%
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Johnson	1.10	0.05	4.5
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The prices in this section refer to Friday's trading

MONEY MARKETS

[illegible]

COMMODITIES

[illegible]

Court of Appeal

Law Report June 25 1991

Court of Appeal

Directors cannot block change

Lee Panavision Ltd v Lee

Lighting Ltd

Before Lord Justice Dillon,

Lord Justice Stocker and Sir

David Croom-Johnson

[Judgment June 13]

It was not within the powers

of the directors of a company, who

knew that the shareholders were

proposing to appoint new directors,

to pass a resolution the

effect of which would be to

remove all managerial powers

from the new directors.

The Court of Appeal so held

in dismissing an appeal by Lee

Panavision Ltd from Mr Justice

Hartman who on April 16, 1991

had refused Panavision an inter-

imposition injunction to restrain

the management by Panavision

of the business or affairs of

Lighting Ltd from (i) termi-

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Lighting and (ii) interfering with

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option ceased to be exercisable.

The clear intention was that if

the option was not exercised or

expired, Lighting should be able

to resume control of its own

affairs.

After Panavision made it

clear that it did not intend to

exercise the option, Westward

indicated that it would on

December 16, 1990 give 10 days

notice to terminate the manage-

ment agreement, and would, as

the beneficial owner of all the

issued shares of Lighting, re-

place the then four directors of

Lighting by two new directors.

At a board meeting on

December 13, the existing direc-

tors resolved that Lighting

should enter into a second

management agreement with

Panavision, the effect of which

was to extend Panavision's

appointment under the 1988

agreement to June 1992. That

second agreement, which had

already been prepared, was

immediately entered into.

Lighting subsequently voted

to remove the four directors and

appoint the two new ones, and

Panavision thereupon issued

proceedings.

The principal question was

whether in the circumstances it

was within the directors' powers

to commit Lighting to the

second management agreement,

however much they might have

thought it was in that company's

interest, as well as Panavision's,

to thwart the intentions of the

100 per cent shareholders.

It was well established that

directors could not use their

powers to perpetrate their or

their friends' control of the

company: see *Piercy v S. Mills &**Co Ltd* ([1920] 1 Ch 77) and

later cases in which it was

followed. Westward could ter-

minate it on notice after the

option ceased to be exercisable.

The clear intention was that if

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The principal question was

whether in the circumstances it

Petroleum Ltd (1974) AC 821,

834 Lord Wilberforce said that

where the self-interest of direc-

tors was involved, they were not

permitted to assert that their

action was bona fide thought to

be in the interest of the

company.

In his Lordship's judgment

that applied equally where the

self-interest was of a person for

whom a director was a nominee,

namely Panavision, in the case

of two of the Lighting directors.

Lord Wilberforce also consid-

ered the separate functions in a

company of the directors and the

shareholders. The function of

directors was to manage, but the

appointment of the directors

who were to do the managing

was a function of the sharehold-

ers in general meeting.

It was unconstitutional for the

directors, knowing that the

shareholders were proposing as

soon as they could to exercise

their constitutional right to

appoint new directors, to take

all managerial powers away

from such new directors by

committing Lighting to the sec-

ond management agreement.

For that and other reasons the

appeal should be dismissed.

Lord Justice Stocker and Sir

David Croom-Johnson agreed.

Solicitors: Barwin Lightfoot

Memory Crystal.

The Court of Appeal so held

in dismissing an appeal by Lee

Panavision Ltd from Mr Justice

Hartman who on April 16, 1991

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Civilian lifeline to the forces' heart

Men of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary now helping the Bangladesh relief effort are vital to the armed forces, Joan Llewelyn Owens writes

The Royal Fleet Auxiliary ship Fort Grange has left the Gulf, where she was supporting the British and allied navies, and has now reached Bangladesh to take part in Operation Manna, the aid effort for victims of the cyclone.

Fort Grange carries four Sea King helicopters and six Royal Marine rigid raiders, which will be used to distribute supplies and carry teams to isolated areas, and possibly to evacuate some of the worst hit by the cyclone. The cargo includes enough dry provisions for 5,000 people for a month and two relief packs containing tents, cooking equipment and medical supplies.

The men of the Fort Grange and the other 22 ships in the RFA's fleet are civilians, but they go everywhere the British armed forces go. They supply Royal Navy warships at sea with fuel, stores and ammunition, and provide aviation support for the Royal Navy and amphibious support and secure sea transport for army units and their equipment.

When ships are replenished at sea in a manoeuvre known as RAS, vessels steam only 50 metres apart on parallel courses. RAS is a supreme test of seamanship, especially in a force 9 gale. Wire jacks, which are tensioned wires, carry stores from supply ship to recipient. Replenishment may also be carried out by helicopters from the RFA ships.

The RFA employs 2,600 officers and ratings and aims to recruit about 50 deck and engineer cadets yearly. Recruits may enter after GCSEs or A-levels. Minimum requirements are five GCSE grade C passes and a suitable physical science, and English. Deck cadets must have good health, normal eyesight and colour vision. Engineer cadets must have good health and normal colour vision but may wear glasses. Deck and engineer officers must be Merchant Navy-qualified.

Courses at training establishments ashore are sandwiched between sea training spells. Deck cadets work towards the BTEC

National Diploma in nautical science, the BTEC Higher National Diploma in nautical science (part 1) and the transport department class 3 competency certificate. Engineering cadets study for the BTEC Higher National Diploma in marine engineering and the relevant competency certificates.

Deck officers are responsible for the safe running and maintenance of the ship and her equipment and the care and management of the men in their department. They are involved in watchkeeping and navigation duties, and the handling of cargo for transfer and in RAS operations. Engineer officers are responsible for the maintenance and safe operation of main propulsion machinery and work on auxiliary machinery and the equipment required.

After qualifying, officers train alongside the navy in defence against nuclear, chemical and biological damage, and learn to operate the ship's defensive weapons. Deck officers are taught to respond to the manoeuvres and



Men of action: David Bancroft (left) and Jonathan Johnson are deck cadets who have served with the auxiliary for nearly three years

tactics required by the naval officer in charge of navigation during conflict.

Some officers undergo 18 months' training as principal warfare officers. This equips them to advise the commanding officer in the operations room of a naval ship on tactics in case of attack.

Jonathan Johnson and David Bancroft are 21-year-old deck cadets who joined the RFA in September 1987. They have just completed their examinations for their competency certificates this year and will soon take up their appointments as third officers.

After six weeks' training and a firefighting course ashore, they

went to sea and undertook all the dirty, back-breaking jobs that a sailor does on deck. Mr Bancroft counts himself lucky. His ship, the Olmeda, a fleet replenishment tanker, serviced ships taking part in the exercise Purple Warrior, a reconstruction of the Falklands conflict. Afterwards, the Olmeda was involved in anti-submarine warfare exercises.

"We had a fight on board again, and we cadets went up in a helicopter to see how the sonar dippers worked," Mr Bancroft says. He was seven months with this ship and was at sea for Christmas, "which I enjoyed more than any other".

For its second voyage Mr Johnson's cadet unit joined the Olwen, a fleet tanker that did the first part of the Outback 88 trip for the Australian bicentenary celebrations. He worked with the crew on the replenishment rig. "It was all very hard work, but I was very pleased that we were able to do some sight-seeing in the Far East," he says.

With every voyage, these young men took on more responsibility and began to keep watches on the bridge. At the same time they had a correspondence course to complete.

Mr Bancroft's second spell at sea was on the Gold Rover, a tanker

that trains Royal Navy and RFA ships in RAS operations and towing. Every week "Thursday War" takes place when naval aircraft carry out simulated air attacks and the tanker takes out the VIPs and sea cadets under training.

"I had a good chief officer," he says. "He had me doing everything. I had to learn the RAS ropes. I operated the winches. I was checking fuel and firing the gunline to which the jacksay would eventually be attached."

For further details: Careers Office (Cadets), Royal Fleet Auxiliary, Room 516, Empress State Building, Little Road, London SW6 1TR

To Place Your Advertisement

071-481 1066

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

Fax Numbers:
071-481 9313
071-782 7828

Strathclyde Transport

STRATHCLYDE PASSENGER TRANSPORT EXECUTIVE GENERAL MANAGER

GLASGOW UNDERGROUND
SALARY: £31,926 - £34,200

The Glasgow Underground, which was constructed in 1890-96 and was comprehensively modernised in 1977-1980, presently carries 13.67 million passengers a year. In total 360 staff are engaged in providing the service. More recently additional works have been carried out to comply with the Fire Precaution (Sub Surface Stations) Regulations 1989 and reflect the recommendations of the Fennell and Hidden Reports.

To further ensure a safe efficient quality service, it has been decided to rationalise the staffing structure so that all Operational, Maintenance and Engineering activities come under the direct control of a General Manager. The Person appointed will also be responsible for the Executive's other Engineering responsibilities including provision and maintenance of bus infrastructure and vehicle inspection of subsidised local and school transport services.

Applications for this post are invited from personnel who presently hold a senior position in the Transport field, are familiar with railway engineering and operational requirements, recognise the importance of strict adherence to Safety Procedures and who have leadership and firm personnel management qualities.

Application forms, which should be returned by Monday 22nd July, 1991, and further particulars may be obtained from: Director (Finance & Personnel), Strathclyde Passenger Transport Executive, Consort House, 12 West George Street, GLASGOW G2 1HN.

Strathclyde Passenger Transport Executive is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

WHAT A SENSIBLE IDEA

Grampian Regional Council PROPERTY DEPARTMENT PRACTICE MANAGER TO £24,126

WSRef 736/91 ST This is a challenging new post within the Council's multi-disciplinary Property Department, formed recently by the merger of the former Architectural Services and Estates Departments. It offers a key opportunity to play a lead role in a planned development towards a commercial style of operation, including staffing and financial management of the Department and the development and implementation of administrative and project control systems, and the training and development of staff.

The successful candidate will have experience at a senior administrative/management level within a multi-disciplinary organisation and have an appropriate managerial or professional qualification. Attractive relocation package available in approved cases.

Informal enquiries to Mr Douglas Reynolds Director of Property on 0224-664422.

Application forms from Director of Personnel Services, Woodhill House, Aberdeen AB9 2LU. Tel 0224-664110 (24 hour service). Closing date 9 July.

FIRST COMMUNITY HEALTH AN NHS TRUST

for caring

DIRECTOR OF ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT Based in Stafford Salary: Circa £30,000

First Community Health NHS Trust was formed in April, 1991. It provides a comprehensive range of community based services and employs over 800 staff (most of whom are highly qualified).

This is a key appointment within our revised organisational structure and is accountable to the Managing Director.

The responsibilities will include:

- * contributing as a full executive member of the Trust Board;
- * taking a lead role in the development of new business and co-ordinating the Business Plan;
- * co-ordinating the development and monitoring of the Business Plan;
- * developing and implementing the Human Resource Strategy;
- * developing and implementing a strategy for public affairs; and
- * managing the Total Quality Management initiative.

The post requires a well qualified person, who has significant managerial experience and a sound background of business planning. Good interpersonal skills are necessary, combined with the ability to work with a range of different agencies and individuals.

An attractive employment package is available to the successful candidate.

Interested applicants should apply to: Mrs Pat Tomlinson, Managing Director, First Community Health NHS Trust, Mellor House, Corporation Street, Stafford ST16 3SR. Tel. 0785 222888. Informal enquiries/visits welcome.

Please send a full curriculum vitae and specify any vocational arrangements you may have in July. Closing date for applications is 8th July, 1991, and interviews will be held during the same month.

The Trust is committed to equality of opportunity in employment and welcomes applications from all sections of the community it serves.

ALL BOX NO. REPLY SHOULD BE SENT TO:
BOX NO. DEPT.,
P.O. BOX 484,
VIRGINIA STREET
WAPPING,
LONDON,
E1 8DD.



ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY COUNCILS

Personnel and Office Services Manager Salary: £30,240 - £33,390 inclusive

We are seeking to appoint an experienced person to lead the office team accountable for the development and maintenance of the human and technical resources of the Association. The successful applicant will possess the managerial skills to ensure success in both of these important aspects of the post.

A knowledge of IT Systems/development will be necessary as well as substantial experience in personnel management.

Application forms and a job description can be obtained from: The Head of Office Management and Personnel, Association of County Councils, Eaton House, 66a Eaton Square, LONDON SW1W 9BH.

Telephone: 071-235 1200. Closing date for applications is 12 July 1991.

Local Government Conditions of Service apply.

The Association is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

CHESTER HEALTH AUTHORITY Priority Care Unit Elderly Services Directorate BUSINESS MANAGER

Salary: Senior Managers Pay £21,710 - £22,580 pa plus PRP Plus Lease Car

The Priority Care Unit is developing its organisational structure based on the Clinical Directorate model and as a result requires a Business Manager to support the recently appointed Clinical Director.

This post offers the opportunity to work closely with clinicians and other managers in achieving the agreed Strategy for Elderly Services.

With relevant experience in a Management post in the Health Service, you should possess excellent communication and negotiation skills. You will play a key role in the management of change within the Directorate.

For an informal discussion about this post contact: Sheila Foley, Unit General Manager, on 0244 364224 or Ken Cooper, Director of Business Services, on 0244 364228.

An information pack can be obtained from: Personnel Services, Chester CH2 1BQ. Tel: Chester (0244) 364483.

Applications should be made by CV to: Mrs M P Needham, Director of Personnel, at the above address. Closing date: July 11, 1991

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

around £40,000

We are looking for an experienced finance manager to join our newly created management board. We are in the process of integrating all our hospital and community services into a single organisation with an operating budget of £72m.

The immediate challenges for the Director of Finance are to bring together and strengthen the local finance functions, to develop the organisation's capacity to operate in the new NHS internal market and to prepare business plans as the potential basis for a bid to become an NHS self-governing trust.

Richmond, Twickenham & Roehampton Health Authority
"An equal opportunity employer"

You will be a qualified accountant with the managerial and commercial expertise to create a strong finance operation and to contribute to corporate strategy.

To discuss the post, ring Peter Baker, Chief Executive or Alan Ritchie, Health Authority Finance Director on 081-789 6611. Further information from District Personnel Department, Queen Mary's University Hospital, Roehampton House, Roehampton Lane, London SW15 5PN. Tel: 081-789 6611 extension 2186. Closing date for completed applications 17th July 1991.

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME MANAGER REF: 9192/3

Salary: £23,331-£26,402 pa including London Weighting

Shepherd Bush Housing Association has a large development programme in West London. In 1991/92 we have £215 million to spend. Reporting to the Property Services Director, you will be responsible for assisting in the formation and implementation of our development strategy and managing our Development Department. You will be responsible for monitoring the Group's Cash Planning Targets and for taking with funding authorities and clients. You will also play a key part in the Management Team of the Association.

You must be able to:

- * demonstrate a proven record of achievement in project management, covering at least 3 years;
- * show that you have negotiating and communicating skills, including the ability to negotiate and develop new schemes;
- * demonstrate at least 2 years staff management experience.

You must also be able to show a commitment to Equal Opportunities and the voluntary housing movement.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: 11th July 1991

INTERVIEWS: 22nd July 1991

Benefits: 25 days' annual leave, LV's, NFA contributory pension scheme. Generous maternity/paternity/sickness benefits. For further information and an application form contact:

The Personnel & Administration Manager,
Shepherd Bush Housing Association Ltd,
28/29 Easton Road, London W3 7YQ
Tel: 081-743 7465

WYCOMBE HEALTH AUTHORITY Community Care Unit

DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

The "Marlow Project" is a 2 year initiative to explore a concept of Care in the Community. The person appointed will undertake research of a defined area to identify elderly people with multiple medical and social needs, the current level of statutory and voluntary care available to them and identify possible additional care requirements leading to a change of pattern in the community. The Marlow Project is to be a pilot scheme and if successful may be extended to other areas of the health district. The post holder will work closely with the Locality Manager and the Consultant Physician for the Elderly. There will be secretarial assistance.

Applicants will have an interest in research and community care and ideally be computer literate. Salary negotiable £16-19k.

For an informal discussion/visit contact Miss Olive Madden, Head of Community Nursing, Community Unit Headquarters, Booker Hospital, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP12 4QG Tel: 0494 261611 Ext. 8820.

Application forms and job description from Unit Personnel Office at the above address. Tel: 0494 426838. Answerphone in operation out of office hours.

CLOSING DATE: 12th July 1991

WYCOMBE HEALTH

Time to savor familiar words at Wimbledon

Macfarlane to relish the going in Newbury sprint

Now that there is plenty of give in the ground at Newbury, Macfarlane, from Martin Fetherston-Godley's nearby East Isley yard, can be given an outstanding chance of winning the Kingston Smith Handicap there tonight in the hands of Willie Carson. Originally the intention was to go for the more valuable Grand Met Handicap at Ascot last Saturday. Indeed Macfarlane's name appeared among the declared runners overnight but in the long run he was withdrawn at Carson's insistence because he was adamant that the ground had become too firm.

No one knows Macfarlane better than Carson, who has ridden him in his last two races, and Fetherston-Godley regards the advice as a reflection of the esteem in which the jockey holds this full brother to that last horse Stalker.

Last time out, the combination of a bad draw and the wrong ground saw Macfarlane finish last at York behind Sheikh Albadou in a handicap for which he had been supported from 12-1 down to half those odds.

Those who were racing at Chester at the beginning of May saw Macfarlane in his true colours when, with Carson aboard, he won the Prince of Wales Handicap for three-year-olds over five furlongs in decisive fashion.

Now he will be confronted by older sprinters for the first time: notably Silver Singing, who enjoyed a purple patch midway through last season but who has yet to this term, and the in-form Angford who missed the cut for last Friday's Wokingham.

In going map on Macfarlane, I leave the last word to his trainer who told me yesterday: "If we get beaten this time, there will be no excuse. Everything is right for him."

Earlier in the programme, Carson will doubtless be hopeful of winning the Newbury Trade Stands Handicap on Highland Ceilidh, if only because her sire Scottish Reel also relished give in the ground. However, she has

three lengths to make up on Roberty Lea on their running together at the last Newbury meeting and only 3lb with which to do it.

Having won on very soft ground at Doncaster and Newcastle last autumn, Live Action will appreciate the conditions when he lines up for the 210FM Avebury Stakes. I expect him to finally live up to the promise he showed in April when fourth in the Spring Cup over course and distance.

In the Wimpey Hobbs Fillies Handicap, it could pay to side with Dahlia, the mount of crack apprentice Darryl Holland, since she was staying on so well over a shorter trip when third behind Possessive Dancer at Kempton last time.

Earlier in the day, Holland rides Corrin Hill for Barry Hills in the Palace Handicap at Brighton and they have every chance of repeating their previous victory over course and distance 15 days ago.

From a betting point of view, Remaadi (2.30) looks the banker on the south coast track following good efforts at Leicester and Kempton.

Finally, I like the look of the Epsom winner Negeen's tote Credit Handicap at Yarmouth where Eclipse should win the Tote Place Only Maiden Fillies Stakes after running such a good second behind Nucleus at Salisbury.



Fetherston-Godley took Carson's Ascot advice

Bolger filly to miss Irish Derby

JIM Bolger has decided against supplementing his Epsom Oaks winner Jet Ski Lady for Sunday's Budweiser Irish Derby and will now rely on Star Of Gdanek.

"Jet Ski Lady has missed some work due to a rash and will return to the Curragh for the Irish Oaks on July 13," explained Bolger. "I'm pleased with Star Of Gdanek since he finished third in the Derby and he will be better suited by the Curragh than Epsom."

However, Star Of Gdanek has 12 lengths to find with Generous in the 12th running of Ireland's premier classic and has another tough opponent in Suave Dancer, the French Derby winner.

"My horse has a lot of speed," Bolger added. "There might not be an obvious pace-maker but that won't worry us. My horse can race from the front or come from off the pace."

Sportsworld, unbeaten in three races, was yesterday confirmed fit and well by a spokesman for the Vincent O'Brien stable. The colt, to be ridden by Lester Piggott, will be attempting to give his trainer a seventh victory in the race.

With Thornberry, who beat Star Of Gdanek last time out, unlikely to run, the field may not number more than six.

SETTIMES: Corrie 5.4 Generous from 6-4, 10-1 Suave Dancer, 10-1 Star Of Gdanek, 25-1 Jet.

Appetising Arc draws 183 entries from 11 countries

By RICHARD EVANS

The countdown to one of the best middle-distance races for years began in London yesterday with the announcement that 183 horses from 11 countries have been entered for the Ciga Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe on October 6.

With 113 days to go to the potential feast on offer at Longchamp, much can go wrong. Horses can suffer setbacks, owners concerned about stallion values can get scared and, in the autumn months, champions can be past their best.

But in a summer without sunshine, the prospect of stars from at least two classic generations clashing on the immaculate turf of the Paris track is enough to lift the spirits.

It is all too easy to be pessimistic when considering the Arc's potential line-up. Generous, five-length winner of the Derby at Epsom three weeks ago, In The Groove, David Elsworth's star filly with a decisive turn of foot, Surge,

third behind Saumarez last year, not to mention Rock Hopper, Quest For Fame and Sanglance are all pencilled in for the big race.

Before punters start writing out their ante-post slips, though, they should look also further afield. For example, what about Stylish Century, the five-year-old Australian colt, whose ten victories from 39 starts include the Victorian Derby and the Queen Elizabeth Stakes at Randwick?

US entries include El Senor, a close third in last year's Breeders Cup Turf, and Algenib.

France will be attempting to retain Europe's end-of-season championship decider with Suave Dancer, Epervier Bleu or Pistoleur Bleu, Ireland, which has the Epsom Oaks winner Jet Ski Lady among its 15 entries, will be represented, along with Brazil, Spain, Denmark and Sweden.

Sheikh Mohammed Al-Maktoum has no less than 25 entries, followed by Daniel Wildenstein

The Ciga hotel chain, which began sponsoring the Arc in 1988, agreed recently to extend its backing until 1996, taking its financial support for the nine years to £4.3 million.

Michael Stoute and Alec Stewart are opening their Newmarket stables to the public on Sunday. Beech Hurst and Freemason Lodge, on the town's Bury Road, will be open from 10am to 1pm and will include an auction of racing memorabilia.

While the Arc is the ultimate prize, it is only one of the jewels in a wonderful weekend crown of racing worth £1.8 million in prize-money.

The 25-race programme will have five group one contests including, for the first time, the Ciga Prix du Cadran run over 4,000 metres (just under two-and-a-half miles). There are also four group two races and one group three.

A spokesman for Richard Hannon confirmed that First Victory, a close third in the Besborough Stakes, would take his chance.

Bookmakers at odds over Plate

By PAUL WHEELER

BOOKMAKERS were at odds yesterday over who should head the ante-post market for the Newcastle Brown Ale Northumberland Plate at Newcastle on Saturday.

William Hill and Coral have installed Star Player as the 6-1 favourite for the two-mile handicap. Trainer John Baker confirmed that the five-year-old will be making the trip from Devon but his main concern was the decisions of other trainers.

"He's got 8st 8lb at the moment, which is ideal for us," Baker said. "But I wouldn't want the weights to go up. I'd have to see what the top-weights are doing."

He was also unsure whether Frankie Dettori, who rode Star Player to victory in the Chester Cup, would be available.

The owner rang his agent, but he does not know whether he can ride. If he doesn't, we could get Willie Ryan who has also won on him."

Ladbrokes make Retouch and First Victory their 7-1 joint favourites. Retouch finished less than five lengths sixth to Indian Queen in the Ascot Gold Cup. Trainer Paul Cole said: "I think he's going to run."

NEWBURY

MANDARIN	THUNDER	MICHAEL SEELY
6.15 Saratoga Source.	6.15 Mini Addition.	8.00 EXCLUSIVE VIRTUE (nap).
6.30 Roberty Lea.	6.30 ROBERTY LEA.	
7.25 MACFARLANE (nap).	7.25 Macfarlane.	
8.00 Dahlia.	8.00 Vallauris.	
8.35 Khalloof.	8.35 Khalloof.	
9.10 Live Action.	9.10 Almam.	

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 6.50 Hawaii Al Barr. 8.00 Exclusive Virtue.

GOING: HEAVY (11.00AM INSPECTION)
DRAW: HIGH NUMBERS HAVE SLIGHT ADVANTAGE UP TO 1M STRAIGHT

6.15 MID-SUMMER MAIDEN FILLES STAKES (2-Y-O; £3,557; 6f) (8 runners)

1	ARZAGAA (Capt. Macdonald) R. Carson 8-11	W Carson
2	BELLA BETTINA (R. Carson) R. Carson 8-11	S. Raymond
3	BINDING CONTRACT (R. Carson) P. Chapple-Hyam 8-11	Paul Eddery
4	50 IN THE GAME 18 (A. Carson) M. A. Whitfield 8-11	G. Duffield
5	54 MINT ADDITION 17 (A. Carson) R. Carson 8-11	S. Raymond
6	SARATOGA SOURCE (G. Carson) R. Carson 8-11	R. Carson
7	SHESSHA (K. Payne) J. Carson 8-11	A. McInnes
8	SKY TRAIL (L. Carson) J. Carson 8-11	J. Field

SETTIMES: 14-1 Saratoga Source, 5-1 Binding Contract, 7-2 Arzaga, 8-1 Bella Bettina, 10-1 Sky Trail, 20-1 Sheesha, 30-1 J. Carson.

FORM FOCUS

IN THE GAME 18th to Governor's Imp at Haydock (5f, good), MINT ADDITION 4th and a neck 4th to Marmalade at Epsom (6f, good), ARZAGAA (Foster) 6f half-sister by Angon to 1st winner Out of Sight, 2nd in the Oaks, BELLA BETTINA (Mar 22) by Duffield, 3rd to 1st winner Anna, 4th to 1st winner Anna, 5th to 1st winner Anna, 6th to 1st winner Anna, 7th to 1st winner Anna, 8th to 1st winner Anna, 9th to 1st winner Anna, 10th to 1st winner Anna, 11th to 1st winner Anna, 12th to 1st winner Anna, 13th to 1st winner Anna, 14th to 1st winner Anna, 15th to 1st winner Anna, 16th to 1st winner Anna, 17th to 1st winner Anna, 18th to 1st winner Anna, 19th to 1st winner Anna, 20th to 1st winner Anna, 21st to 1st winner Anna, 22nd to 1st winner Anna, 23rd to 1st winner Anna, 24th to 1st winner Anna, 25th to 1st winner Anna, 26th to 1st winner Anna, 27th to 1st winner Anna, 28th to 1st winner Anna, 29th to 1st winner Anna, 30th to 1st winner Anna, 31st to 1st winner Anna, 32nd to 1st winner Anna, 33rd to 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FOOTBALL

Rangers complete Mikhailichenko £2 million transfer

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

AS IF anyone questioned which is the top priority for the Scottish league champions, Rangers, next season, yesterday's signing of the Soviet international midfielder, Alexei Mikhailichenko, should provide an emphatic answer.

Rangers remain determined to bring the European Cup back to Ibrox, and it is that ambition that has inspired the £2 million deal that has brought Mikhailichenko from the Italian club, Sampdoria. Mikhailichenko's European pedigree is unchallenged, and Rangers are hoping that, in tandem with Oleg Kuznetsov, he will provide the experience and quality that can carry them towards the later stages at least of the competition.

The fee for Mikhailichenko,

aged 28, is to be paid in dollars and in two stages — an initial downpayment of \$1.3 million, with a similar sum paid in 11 months' time and the rest when he has played 50 matches.

Rangers owner, David Murray, said yesterday: "Even a club like Rangers has limits. Our supporters' money is helping to pay for this and it would be entirely wrong of us if we did not try to strike the hardest bargain."

Rangers will now have to apply for a work permit for Mikhailichenko. In addition, because the Scottish League allows only ten overseas players from outside the European Community to play north of the border, the club has parted company with its Israeli goalkeeper, Bonni Ginsburg.

Ginsburg has returned to Israel.

"Europe is our ultimate target, but let us not forget we have to keep winning in Scotland and we have not won the Scottish Cup for ten years," Murray said.

Mikhailichenko is now the costliest player in Scotland. Previously with Dynamo Kiev, he inspired Sampdoria's Italian league championship success this season and had been expected to stay in Italy once it was known the Genoa club was prepared to release him.

After passing a medical and signing for Rangers, he said: "The size of the puts me under a great obligation to Rangers and the people of Glasgow to repay that money on the football field."

Robson injury feat at United

BRYAN Robson, of Manchester United, faces the prospect of again missing the start of a new season after undergoing a hernia operation. Robson, aged 33, missed 23 games at the start of last season while recovering from the Achilles tendon surgery that brought a premature end to his World Cup campaign in Italy during the summer.

United have yet to confirm officially their captain's problem, but Robson is understood to have suffered stomach pains last week and was sent to a top London hospital for immediate treatment. The first-team squad is due to report back to Old Trafford for pre-season training in three weeks' time.

However, if the former England does miss the build-up to the start of the season, United will at least have another Bryan Robson available.

It is Bryan "Pop" Robson, aged 45, the former Newcastle, Sunderland, West Ham and Cardiff forward, who is joining the coaching staff in place of the former youth coach, Brian

Whitehouse, who was dismissed last month.

Robson, who has been scouting for United in the north east and also helping to run one of their schools of excellence, now links up with Brian Kidd, Nobby Stiles and the former Luton Town manager, Jim Ryan, on Ferguson's staff.

□ The first division newcomers, Notts County, who achieved promotion via the play-offs by Brighton at Wembley last month, have given the central defender, Nicky Platts, aged 30, a free transfer.

Dutch merger

Rotterdam (Reuters) — SVV Schiedam, the Dutch first division football club, and Dordrecht '90, of the second division, will merge at the beginning of the new season, John van Dijk, the SVV chairman, said. They will compete in the first division under the name SVV/Dordrecht '90 and will play their home matches in Dordrecht.

Maidstone plan new stadium

THE fourth division club, Maidstone United, hopes to be playing at a new ground before the end of the 1992-3 season.

They submitted plans last week for a luxury sports and leisure complex close to the M20 motorway which will cost around £30,000,000. This will be funded by commercial investment into facilities on the site, including a cinema, hotel and restaurants.

The club currently shares a ground with non-League Dartford.

Argentina ban

FIFA, the world governing body, has banned Argentina from the 1993 world youth championship for violent behaviour during their 3-0 defeat by Portugal. It also suspended Juan Esnaider, the Argentine player, from all international matches for one year.

ATHLETICS

Backley's place goes to Hill

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

STEVE Backley, the Commonwealth and European javelin champion, was forced to withdraw yesterday from Britain's team to defend the European Cup in Frankfurt this weekend. Given the potential closeness of the British, German and Soviet teams, Backley's absence could cost Britain the cup they captured in Gateshead two summers ago.

Backley, aged 22, hurt a leg while throwing for Loughborough Students in a match against the Amateur Athletic Association and British students on Sunday. The injury, a torn adductor, is thought not to be serious and indications are that he will be back in training next week.

Backley has been replaced, ironically, by Mick Hill, who returns to competition in the grand prix meeting at Helsinki on Thursday, having undergone a knee operation in February. Though Britain remains generally weak in field events — the javelin was the only one it could have hoped to win — it is fortunate to have strength in depth in the javelin.

Hill was the Commonwealth

Games runner-up to Backley in Auckland last year, fourth in the European championships in Spain and ended 1990 ranked sixth in the world. As the British Amateur Athletic Board spokesman, Tony Ward, said: "It is a big blow but we have a world class replacement in Mick."

It is a mark of Hill's standing that he has been picked without proving himself this season, given that Colin Mackenzie has thrown 82.60 metres and has



Backley: has torn adductor

shown good back-up form. If he can get quickly into his stride and throw over 80 metres, Hill could finish second.

Jan Zelensky, the former world record holder, would appear now to be capable of gaining the maximum points that Backley was expecting. Viktor Zaitsev, of the Soviet Union, and Peter Blank, of Germany, have the capacity, however, to put their countries ahead of Britain. Had Backley been competing, they would have probably finished behind.

In a renewed points appraisal, taking in Hill's replacement of Backley, Mel Watson, the leading statistician, reckoned that Britain were heading for 119 points, the Soviet Union for 118 and Germany, 116.

□ Merlene Ottey, unbeaten over 200 metres for 35 years, will defend her record in the Paraforce Games at Crystal Palace on July 12. The Jamaican, aged 31, joins a sprint line-up including Carl Lewis and Linford Christie (100 metres), John Regis and Leroy Burrell (200 metres) and Roger Black and Michael Johnson (400 metres).

American teenager determined not to suffer from the law of diminishing returns

Capriati can wait for the rewards

By ANDREW LONGMORE
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

A YEAR ago, the sprightly voice on the Capriati home answerphone rang out: "Hey, Dudes, this is Jenny Cap. Life was easy, life was a ball. This year the Capriati voice has been a little less vivacious as a game which was only a game has suddenly become more serious and the novelty of suitcase life has worn off. Asked whether she was doing any sightseeing this year in Paris, she looked puzzled. "We did Paris last year." And Rome and London, too, cream in hand, camera at the ready.

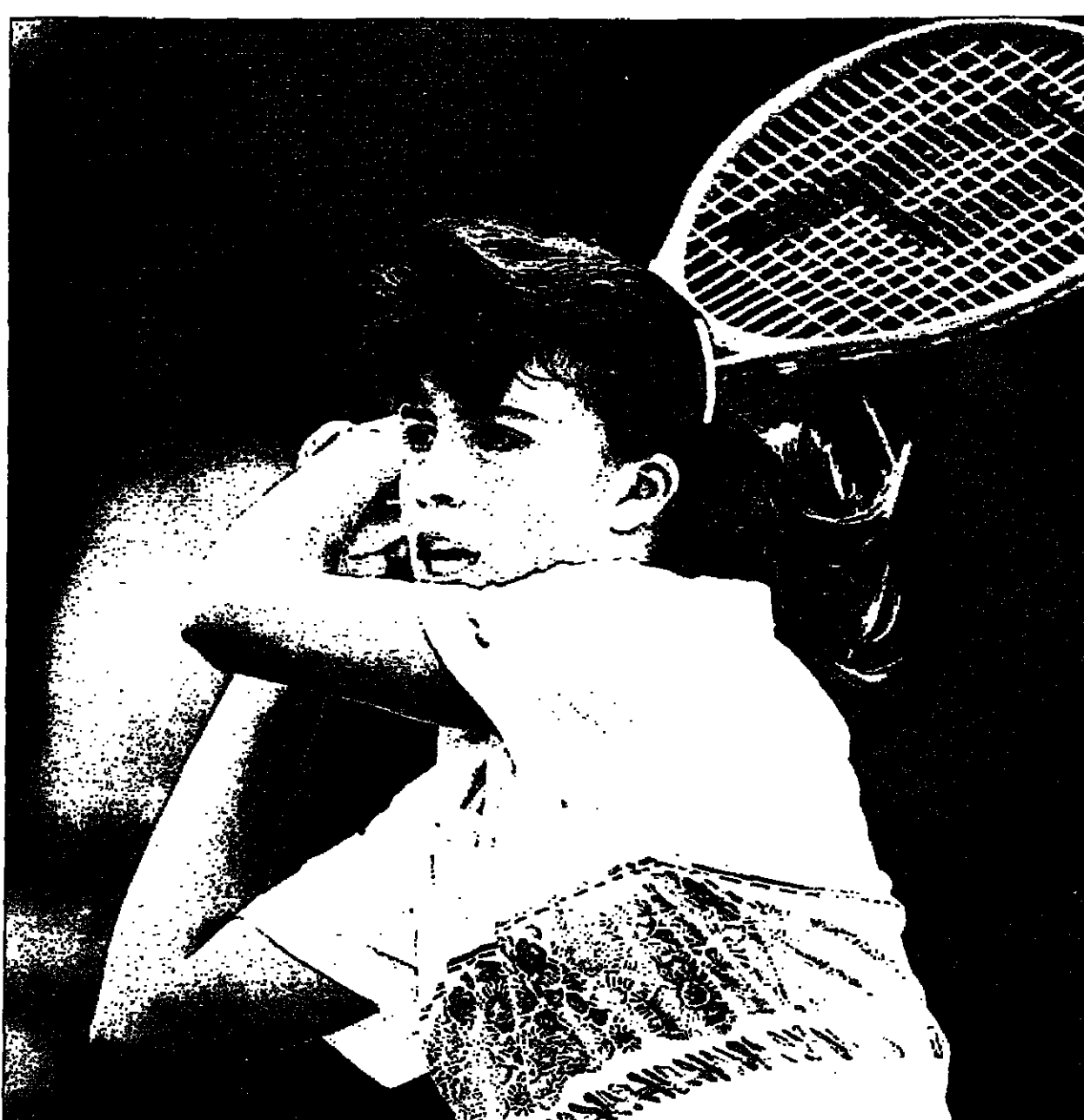
She is back in London, waiting, like 28,000 others yesterday, for the rain to cease so that she can begin her second challenge for the Wimbledon title against fellow American, Shaun Stafford.

Capriati's condition is well known. It is called the sophomore year, the second year on the tour when self-expectations rise and the fears of others fall. Andre Agassi suffered from the same law of diminishing returns in his second year and nearly retired from the game at the age of 18. There is no danger at the moment of Capriati exploring the same depths, but that does not stop the whispers. "Told you so." "Overrated."

John Evert, brother of Chris and agent of Jennifer, is aware of the dangers.

"This year her goal has been to beat some of the top players, whereas last year she just wanted to win one match at a time. She has also made a name for herself. Last year, players were a little scared. They didn't want to be beaten by a kid. Now they have been beaten by her, their attitude is different. They are the underdog and they are going for her," John Evert said.

After her defeat by Conchita Martinez in the fourth round of the French Open, Capriati's schedule was revised. She was due to go straight to England to begin preparations for her second Wimbledon. Instead, the family decided to return to Florida so that Jennifer could get back among her friends, go to a few films and get away from tennis for a while. She has not played any warm-up tournaments, but has been practising with Tom



Capriati: less vivacious as game has become more serious and the novelty of suitcase life has worn off

Gullikson. Capriati will not need reminding that the path to fame and riches is not without its hurdles. The spectre of Andre Jaeger, ironically a regular visitor to the same Colorado clinic as Seles, is reportedly attending now, and Tracy Austin are far too real to be ignored by a ninth grade high school girl, who played her first professional match just a few days before her 14th birthday.

Seles has already paid the physical price of over-playing. She has played solidly for a year, has been growing almost before your eyes and yet instead of taking time off when it was offered at the end of last year, she embarked on an exhausting, and lucrative, series of exhibitions against Gabriela Sabatini in South America and in the Far East. By the time she came to the start of the season in Australia, she admitted she was exhausted and nearly pulled out of the Australian Open, which she won.

Facilities to benefit

THE Lawn Tennis Association's Indoor Tennis Initiative is to receive another £7.5 million over the next five years for the building of tennis facilities in inner-city areas. (Alix Ramsay writes).

The money will come from the LTA, the Sports Council, and the All England Ground Company Limited to the tune of £500,000 each per year. The aim is to build public tennis courts for use on a pay-and-play basis, bringing people of all ages and abilities back to the sport and provide them with coaching.

So far the LTA has opened 17 centres and there are a further eight under construction. Now the aim is to target Birmingham, Leeds, Manchester, Bristol, Cardiff and Edinburgh. The scheme is being co-ordinated by Phillip Sandilands cor, director of facilities at the LTA. "We are looking at a programme of another 12 to 15 centres," he said. "But we have failed before in targeting major urban areas. The problem has been with public sector funding. The authorities can't find finance for leisure facilities."

How to decide where the money goes

BILLIE Jean King, engaged in a low-level conversation with our Norfolk terrier at Eastbourne last week, looked up sharply on hearing a clumsily-phrased comment — to the effect that she looked remarkably trim and fit, considering that she no longer had the incentive of winning tournaments and paying bills.

Unwilling to let the implication pass, she insisted: "I never played for the money."

Well, many of us are lucky enough to go into this or that profession primarily because we want to and have some sort of talent for the job — and there was not much money in tennis when King went into it. Those days have gone. Many of today's players, of both sexes, earn more money in a year — most of it from business deals based on their celebrity status — than Joe Public earns in a lifetime.

One could argue that there is too much money for the leading players, too much for

mediocrities who should play tennis simply as a weekend recreation, and too much for schoolchildren gifted at the hit-and-run business. But how can anyone accurately assess a player's worth in relation to the money available?

Richard Evans, the European communications director for the Association of Tennis Professionals, says: "It's all very well for the top players to say that there is too much money in the game. But only a few will come out of it with more money than they need. You're in a commercial business and you have to go with market forces."

Evans makes a sound comparison with a Frank Sinatra concert: "You work out the costs and how many seats you can fill and the rest of the finances and you make him an offer. If you pay him half-a-million dollars and still

make a profit, then he's worth half-a-million dollars. If a tournament says Boris Becker is worth X amount, you can't get away from that. If tournament directors were going broke, you could say the players were getting too much money. But the tournament directors are not going broke."

Jim McManus, the director of the ATP seniors' tour, has to live with the times, but still bankers after the ideal — a system in which players are rewarded according to results: "I don't know that there's too much money, but I would like people to play for it, with all the guarantee money on the table. Morally, that's the way the game should be run. But so many other forces have come in."

"Guarantees are such a big issue. If you establish a residence in Monaco and don't have to pay taxes, and the Monte Carlo tournament say 'We sure hope you can play', is that a guarantee? Then there

are touring pros and pros who have jobs with big corporations. Guarantees go beyond straight-forward business deals.

"The rights and wrongs will always be debated, but the guarantee system is with us and the ATP have opened it up. We have allowed tournaments to pay guarantees, to go out and buy players. But the tournament directors are getting smarter. 'Here's some money but the rest is based on performance'. They're putting incentives into it, for every match won."

We have heard it all before — and incentives based on results could take us back a quarter-of-a-century to the days when the guarantee system was in even more disrepute and prize-money was the rule.

"Tennis players didn't used to be showbusiness people, but now they are," according to Ed Fabricius, director of communications for United

States Tennis Association. "In our country, they are not criticised nearly as much as players in other pro sports — baseball, American football, basketball — in which players have contracts. People can understand you making big money if you win, but not if you lose. That's why it is hard to accept the guarantee system. You don't have to perform. Our fans are getting anti-athlete."

Playing any game for money tests character but does not change it. In tennis, the players' associations are concerned with creating more jobs for more players for more money. The money in tennis comes from commercial sources promoting this or that product via celebrities. Players become celebrities not because of their ability but because of the publicity they receive. In other words, if there is too much money in tennis, put it down to me and my kind.

Shelford signed

WARRINGTON have signed Kelly Shelford, who on Sunday helped New Zealand's rugby league team beat France 32-10 in Christchurch. He replaces the Australian, Chris O'Sullivan, but cannot play his first match for Warrington until his contract dispute with Whitehaven is settled.

He failed to return to Whitehaven last season halfway through his contract and the international Rugby League board ruled he cannot play again in England until the matter is solved. Shelford will replace the Australian, Chris O'Sullivan, on Warrington's import quota.

□ The first day's fixtures for the 1991/92 Stanes Bitter championship are published today. Wigan, champions last year, will play Challenge Cup winners for the past two seasons, begin their league defence at Castleford,

FIRST DIVISION (September 10): Bradford Northern v Hull Kingston Rovers; Castleford v Wigan; Halifax v Featherstone Rovers; Hull v St Helens; Swinton v Wakefield Trinity; Warrington v Salford; Widnes v Leeds.

MOTOR RACING: Porsche has temporarily pulled out of Formula One racing to concentrate further tests on its troubled engine. The Footwork cars that have been powered by Porsche engines will continue racing with a Ford Cosworth motor. A spokesman said Porsche was hoping to have an engine ready for the Japanese Grand Prix on October 20. The Footwork stable is owned by a Japanese businessman.

BADMINTON: Gillian Gowers, whose regular partner, the Dane, Jan Paulsen, is injured, has the Swedish International Jens Olsson, as partner for the Far East tour starting next week. The England squad leaves tomorrow to play in the Malaysia, Indonesian and Singapore Opens.

SQUAD: D Hall, S Butler, A Nelson, H Toke, J Muggleton, G Clark and G Gowers.

BRIDGE: Britain's Open team scored its sixth successive victory yesterday, beating Germany 21-9, to consolidate its lead in the European championships.

Leaders (after 18 rounds): Great Britain, 34½; Sweden, 32½; Ireland, 32½; Poland, 31½; The Netherlands, 31½.

SQUASH: Jamshed Khan, the world champion, has been pulled out of his long-term support, Steve Frawley, who defends his World Open title in Adelaide next month, now looks certain to be the only top 50 player absent from the competition.

VOLLEYBALL: Italy, who won the European men's title for the first time in Sweden two years ago, have been kept apart from the Soviet Union, who won the title nine successive times before 1989, in the draw for this year's championships.

EVENING RACING

Windsor

Going good to soft

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Tennis suffers from an excess of money

By DAVID MILLER

TENNIS has a sickness, Philippe Chatrier, the retiring French president of the International Tennis Federation, said the other day, that could be terminal. The sickness, contradictorily, is an excess of money for the players. Brian Tobin, the Australian former Davis Cup player who succeeds Chatrier next month, agrees. He hopes he may have an antidote or two.

"Players are robots, playing and travelling too much," Tobin said yesterday, as rain delayed the start of the Wimbledon circus. "The way they're coached, the psychologists' advice given them diminishes the individual. It's a

business, not a sport. They will never have any friends in the tennis game when they're finished. "In the old days," Tobin added, "players attempted shots that carried risk. Now, they have so many 'advisers' who have an interest in the 'product' that they only play the percentages. You see the old enthusiasm when young players come into the game at 15 or 16, and within two years or so it's gone, they're in the same mould. Maybe it would be better if tennis had experienced a short-term recession, if players had had to work harder for what they get."

Yet Tobin blames the loss of control on the way the game is played partially on the national

governing bodies. It will be one of his priorities as president to try to professionalise national federations, to modernise their development and organisation. It was tempting to ask him if he would start with our Lawn Tennis Association, though I suspect he more had in mind such countries as Italy and Germany, where the proprietary grip of agents is that much stronger. In Britain, sadly, there is nothing in the way of players upon whom agents might get a grip.

"Professionalism has passed by many federations," Tobin said, "so it is no surprise they have had trouble retaining the co-operation of their players, their loyalty to the

Federation and Davis Cups. Even some of the major federations are not getting a return from the game they deserve, with large sums going to entrepreneurs, into the private pocket. There's a dignified place for agents, but not as owners of the game."

Tobin regrets the creation of the \$8m Grand Slam Cup, which magnified the financial excesses, though he believes it became necessary once there was a split between ITF and ATP. He would rather it were part of the Tour, and hopes to be able to develop better co-ordination between the rival factions. With \$2 million from the Grand Slam Cup going to the development of the game, Tobin

wonders why some players are not more inquisitive about the money generated by the ATP Finals, which pay only \$2 million prize-money, yet must generate comparable funds. It is ironic that tennis should be bedevilled by its own success. Here is a game with greater numbers of players, more countries and more television viewers than ever.

While Tobin was expressing his views yesterday, the frustrated centre court crowd was being diverted with a live BBC Radio interview with Richard Lewis, the national director of coaching. When the audience was asked, mockingly, what chance they

thought of a British winner, the laughter was the kind reserved for the late Eric Morecambe in short trousers. When Lewis was introduced, there was the barely audible applause of a WI greeting for the evening speaker on basket weaving.

When the inter-com in the press room announced Lewis's imminent appearance, somebody exclaimed: "That's even worse than the rain." It would be better had he not appeared, even if the neglect of 55 years since Perry last won can hardly be placed on Lewis's shoulders. He was polite and sincere but implausible, saying little to suggest that anything will change in the next 50 years.



Tobin: 'advisers' upset him

Fears of burn-out mount for injured No. 1

Seles fined for withdrawal as she lies low

By ANDREW LONGMORE
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

MONICA Seles was fined \$6,000 by the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) yesterday for pulling out of Wimbledon, but nearly 72 hours after news of her withdrawal, questions about her injury were still being met with empty words and blank faces.

Wimbledon still has not been given an official reason for the absence of their top seed—the first time a top seed has withdrawn—and the Women's Tennis Association, the governing body of the women's game, has not managed to contact the player either. The WTA is waiting for a medical certificate from Seles's doctor and calls to a number in the United States have not been answered. Gerry Smith, executive director of the WTA, would not say where Seles was.

"We don't know exactly

what the injury to Monica is, but we believe it is related to the shin splints. But we have been told by her agents that it is not serious and she is not going to have surgery. We expect Monica to be back playing on the tour very soon," Smith said yesterday. Whatever the brave or stony face being put on the affair yesterday, the disappearance of their No. 1, particularly when she is halfway to doing the grand slam after winning the Australian and the French Opens, is a deep embarrassment to the WTA at a time when it is desperately trying to get equal prize money with the men for all grand slams.



The WTA's sole contact with Seles has been through her agent, Stephanie Tolleson, of the International Management Group in Cleveland. But she has seemed singularly unable to shed any light.

Smith said: "We have made numerous attempts to contact Monica. We don't feel there is anything going on and we can only speculate that they are waiting for another diagnosis before telling us what the injury is. But we would like her to provide more specific information and to be more open with us."

The silence from Seles has encouraged speculation that she is the latest victim of the burn-out which halted the careers of two other young players, Andrea Jaeger and Tracy Austin. Jaeger, who played an extraordinary 21 tournaments in her first year on the circuit at the age of 15, was effectively out of the game with a shoulder injury four years later. Austin, twice US Open champion and world No. 1 at the age of 18, was forced out with a back injury in 1983.

Ana Lesard, director of public relations for the WTA, said: "If you are halfway to a grand slam, you don't pull out of a tournament unless it is something serious."

Seles, who at 17 became the youngest ever world No. 1 in March, is allowed one free withdrawal a year, but she used hers at Sydney in January after playing a gruelling series of exhibitions against Gabriela Sabatini. She was so exhausted she nearly pulled out of the Australian Open at the end of January.

The claim that Seles's injury is not serious runs counter to the statement on Sunday by Karoly Seles, her father and coach, that she was hardly able to walk because of the inflammation to the muscles in both legs.

Attention at Wimbledon, where rain washed out play yesterday, turns to Martina Navratilova, who starts the defence of her ninth title against Elena Reinach, of South Africa, on centre court today. If Navratilova wins she will become the first player to achieve 100 singles victories at Wimbledon.

Jim Courier, the French Open champion, who was due to play Rodolphe Gilbert in



Crowd teaser: Jim Courier, the French Open champion, joins the wait at centre court

No refund for wash-out

FOR the first time since 1987 and only the 26th in all, play was washed out at Wimbledon yesterday. Play was called off by Alan Mills, the tournament referee, at just before 7pm after constant rain through the day (Andrew Longmore writes).

Jim Courier, the French Open champion, who was due to play Rodolphe Gilbert in

the first match on court two, can at least come back. The army of bedraggled spectators was not so lucky. Unlike Lord's, there is no refund on tickets, though ticket holders for centre court and court one are guaranteed a seat for the same day next year, at next year's prices.

Despite the wash-out, Mills was not considering an earlier start yet. "It is bitterly disappointing for everyone, but spare days are always built into the programme and there is plenty of time to catch up," he said.

Stefan Edberg spent his day reading and watching the spectators on centre court, where he should have been starting the defence of his title against Marc Rosset.

It was this that so deeply dismayed Gooch that he privately questioned his powers of motivation. He can have no such doubts now and it is not only a credit to the captain but an urgent incentive for the England committee to secure him in the position for the foreseeable future.

England defy the odds to finish in front

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

LORD'S (final day of five): England drew with West Indies

DURING the one-sided start to this second Test match, anyone suggesting England would end up on top could have expected to be called daft. Yet, arguably, that was the state of play when rain returned to the capital before noon yesterday.

In the 4.5 overs possible before midsummer's day was enveloped in gloom, West Indies had lost the wickets of Simmons and Richardson while extending their lead to a fragile 77.

They were not exactly on the critical list but neither were they comfortable. The gangplank England were walking with dread on Saturday morning had long since been compassionately withdrawn. No Test can be thought entirely satisfactory when almost two days are lost to the weather, and the Queen, scheduled to visit for what ought to have been a tense last afternoon, had to ask the players to tea at Buckingham Palace instead.

So far as England are concerned, however, all is well with the world. Two games gone in the Cornhill series and they remain 1-0 ahead. It is still not long odds against a final score of 1-3 and Gooch's modest insistence that West Indies remain favourites was vindicated by much of the cricket in this game.

It began with England bowling ineptly and continued with West Indies bowling awesomely well. Without an innings of heroic proportions from Smith, it might still have been over before the rain intervened.

Smith's century, however, was far from unsupported, and it is the will and ability to fight back which is the most pleasing facet of England's cricket. They were frequently in similar strife against Australia last winter and not once did they muster more than a whimper of resistance.

It was this that so deeply dismayed Gooch that he privately questioned his powers of motivation. He can have no such doubts now and it is not only a credit to the captain but an urgent incentive for the England committee to secure him in the position for the foreseeable future.

Ted Dexter's committee has so far concentrated on contracting a number of players for the winter but, of the seven men to have their fees guaranteed, three are looking dubious investments. Fraser watched this match from the press box and is unlikely to play again this season while neither Lamb nor Malcolm is playing well enough to merit remaining in the team.

Lamb has failed three times in succession but it is more the manner of his failing that condemns him. His footwork, never a strong point, has now deserted him. If he does go, England's best course would be the addition of a left-handed opener to partner Gooch, with Atherton dropping to No. 3 and Hick more protected at No. 4.

It was noticeable that Ambrose's line was disrupted by the left-handed Russell on Saturday, and the insertion of Morris or Benson at the head of the innings would give England a better chance of weathering the new-ball onslaught which, so far, has cut short the opening stand at 13.22 and five.

Gooch, speaking last night, blended justifiable pride over his side's fightback with a warning that no one's place is sacred. "There are one or two positions we must look at for the next game at Trent Bridge," he said.

One of these is undoubtedly Malcolm's, despite the boost he may have received from taking one of the wickets to fall yesterday. He again began with a sequence of leg-stump half-volleys but, in his third over, located the right line to have Richardson caught at second slip.

With the impressive DeFreitas having already removed an unhappy Simmons, leg-before playing down the wrong line, West Indies were 10 for two.

Lance Gibbs, the West Indies manager, retained a degree of defiance when he said: "I don't think England are favourites for the series just yet." But with only three games left, and the weather set against them, he did add: "I didn't expect to find us in this position." In that, he is far from alone.

Full scoreboard and averages, page 38

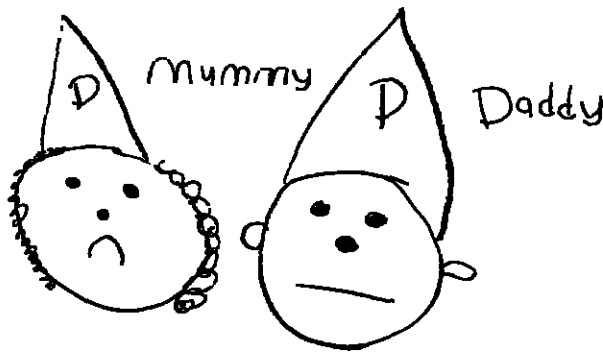
Wilander withdraws

MATS Wilander, still needing a Wimbledon title to complete his grand slam collection, pulled out of the championships yesterday morning with a knee injury (Andrew Longmore writes).

Wilander, aged 26, the former world No. 1 and three times Wimbledon quarter-finalist, who has slid down the

rankings since 1988, when he won three of the four grand slam titles, injured his left knee before the French Open in Paris and aggravated it again against Patrick Kuhnert at Queen's two weeks ago.

The Swede was due to play the British Davis Cup player, Danny Sapsford, in the first round yesterday.



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World Cup fever retains its grip on viewers

By JOHN GOODBODY

FOOTBALL has dominated the television sports ratings for the first six months of 1991. Figures released yesterday by BBC and ITV show that the euphoria of the 1990 World Cup, when 25.2 million people watched the England v West Germany semi-final, helped to increase the number of viewers for the 1990-1 domestic and European competitions.

As BBC and BSkyB launched their extensive coverage of Wimbledon fortnight - always one of the most-watched sports events on television - the statistics emphasised that the public is attracted by the big event, such as the Grand National and world championship boxing, but that football, and to a lesser extent snooker, consistently draw high audiences. Last season, the 21 Barclays League and Littlewoods Cup matches screened live on ITV averaged a record 7.128 million and the seven European matches averaged 9.24 million.

The BBC had 14.9 million for the FA Cup and Scottish Cup finals. This was more than three million higher than last year, when BBC screened the FA Cup exclusively for the first time.

Bob Burrows, the head of ITV sport, said: "The Match has put paid once and for all to the belief that live television does not affect the number of spectators watching the game. It stimulates interest in football. The first division attendances have gone up."

Jonathan Martin, the head of BBC sport, said that the audience for snooker had become adept at knowing when the most exciting moments of key games were being played. "At the world championship, people will always tune in at the nitty gritty."

One surprisingly low BBC figure for the first six months was the England v France rugby union grand slam decided in March, shown on BBC, which drew only 4.9 million. Martin argued, however, that the figure was a good one, particularly since Saturday afternoons had become

a time when people often did other things than watch television.

He will be scrutinising the figures for the 1991 World Cup this autumn, for which ITV has the exclusive rights. Rugby union draws an affluent audience, which has made the rights to the World Cup particularly attractive to potential advertisers.

Both Martin and Burrows believed golf would continue to grow in popularity, partly because of the success of Britons. When Ian Woosnam was playing the final holes of the Masters, five million people were watching at mid-

night. Burrows said: "I wish ITV was more involved in golf. Up to a few years ago we had a nice package including the Masters, the Ryder Cup, the British Masters and the European Open."

A decision was made, however, to drop many events and shortly afterwards Britons began winning major tournaments.

Burrows also lamented the absence on ITV of a regular sports "magazine" programme, exploring issues and making topical comments. "No one has really cracked this. I have argued with the bosses about this but there is only a limited demand for it."

Burrows did not believe that the satellites had yet made a big impact, although he applauded the screening of the cricket series in the West Indies and Australia. Martin genuinely welcomed their arrival. "They are complementary to the terrestrial channels. For instance, they can cover an event like the Australian Open tennis championships for two weeks, something we simply cannot do."

With BSkyB no longer transmitting Eurosport because its role was found to be illegal under EEC regulations, it is concentrating on The Sports Channel. David Hill, head of sports for BSkyB, is excited about the winter when there will be football on the air six nights a week, including the FA Cup and the Scottish Cup and a host of smaller competitions. "We are building the schedule round football and boxing," BSkyB has bought the rights to the next four Mike Tyson bouts.

Hill recognises that it is obtaining the exclusive rights to glamorous events which "forces people to buy a satellite dish". It is also anticipating interest. "What everyone is doing is trying to find the Pot Black of the 1990s, the sport which will attract viewers outside the big events. Television does not make a sport, the public does. If I knew what that sport was going to be, then I would be worth a fortune."
